Lahd to continue to hold the Finnish soldiers

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Gen. Antoine Lahd, commander of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army, said Wednesday he would continue to hold 21 Finnish UN soldiers hostage until he found out what had happened to 11 members of his militia.

The silver-haired militia commander told reporters in this hilltop town that he did not consider the Finns captured last Friday to be prisoners. But when asked what would happen if any of the UN soldiers tried to escape, Lahd said: "There are military rules about such things. He will be warned, and if he doesn't stop, he will be fired on".

The soldiers, members of the 10-nation UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), appeared to be in good health. Most of them laughed as they talked with reporters, and some complained that their food was boring.

Earlier in the day, in the northern Israeli town of Metulla, Lahd told the Associated Press that he had given Unifil a proposal aimed at ending the hostage affair.

He said that on Tuesday, he suggested to Unifil's deputy commander, Col. Jean Pons of France, that the 11 missing militiamen be brought to a neutral place in order to give their version of how they left their post.

Israeli Defence minister Yitzhak Rabin has said that the fate of the Finnish soldiers should be settled by Unifil and the South Lebanon Army. Rabin said that Israel assists the militia but does not tell it what to do.

Lahd, in military uniform, arrived at the hotel in a green mercedes driven by one of his Lebanese militiamen. Also in the car was a young Israeli soldier armed with a US-made M-16 rifle.

When Lahd left the hotel after talking to Israeli reporters, an Israeli officer told him not to speak to foreign reporters waiting outside. "Not even a word"? Lahd asked. The officer said no, and Lahd walked past the correspondents without answering questions which they called out to him.

In occupied Jerusalem, an official from the Israeli defence ministry said Wednesday that Israel would not give Lahd's militia any orders concerning the Finns. "We do not want to do things that way, because in such a fashion we will find ourselves back in Lebanon," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Two Amal militiamen armed with Kashnikov rifles guard 11 soldiers of the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army at a warehouse in South Lebanon. The man on the far right is Daoud Daoud, a senior Amal official in the South.

Gandhi meets Reagan

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan was to meet Wednesday with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Hoping to promote closer Indo-American ties and to encourage India to be more responsive to western interests.

Gandhi has just completed a visit to Moscow. Before his arrival in the US, the American official said no major breakthroughs were expected during the Indian leader's four-day visit, which will include meetings with four cabinet officers.

The official, who insisted on anonymity, described Wednesday's meeting as a get acquainted session aimed partly at establishing a personal rapport between the leaders of the world's two largest democracies.

The administration seems to be impressed with Gandhi during his first months in office. According to the US official, Gandhi has shown himself to be a forceful and able leader who appears destined to be around for a long time.

After his White House meeting in the morning, Gandhi planned to have lunch with Secretary of State, George P Shultz.

Relations between India and the United States have been plagued by mutual suspicion brought on by the alliance of each with the principal rival of the other.

India has been on good terms with the Soviet Union for years while the United States has been the main arms supplier to India's western neighbour and long-time foe, Pakistan.

Bulgarians sought to kill Walesa, says Agca

ROME (AP) — Papal assailant Mehmet Ali Agca testified Wednesday that Bulgarians plotted to kill Polish Labour Leader Lech Walesa with a car bomb in Rome in 1981.

Agca also said he was sent by Bulgarians to Tunis to scout out the possibility of an assassination attempt against Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba and former Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff.

During his fifth day on the stand in the Papal plot trial, Agca repeated a charge he had made to investigators that the Bulgarians wanted to eliminate Walesa, leader of the now outlawed solidarity labour union in Pope John Paul II's native Poland.

Agca said the plan called for Walesa to be killed by a radio-controlled car bomb after a press conference during his Rome visit in January 1981.

The Turk said the plan was called off because an unidentified Italian informed police of the plot.

Judge Ilario Martella, who brought the indictments in the Papal plot trial, had dropped charges against four Bulgarians and two Italian union leaders who Agca had accused of being part of the plot. Martella said there was insufficient evidence.

During the Rome visit, Walesa met at the Vatican with Pope John Paul, who strongly endorsed solidarity, the first independent labour union in the Soviet bloc.

Former MP assassinated, hurricane death toll surpasses 11,000

DHAKA (AP) — Ambushers have gunned down a former Member of Parliament and his son in Jessore district, 250 kilometres southwest of Dhaka, police said Wednesday.

Jessore police, reached by telephone, said Ekhlasuddin Ahmed, 55, his eldest son, Ehteshamul Huq, 22, and his nephew were riding a motorcycle Tuesday when assailants hiding in a bush opened fire.

Police said Ekhlasuddin and his son died on the spot while his nephew was taken to a hospital with bullet wounds.

Ekhlasuddin, a leader of the opposition Bangladesh workers peasants Awami League, was a follower of assassinated President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Police said they have arrested Yonus Ahmed, 22, in connection with Tuesday's killing, and were investigating the motive for the slaying.

Opposition political parties called for a dawn to noon general strike Wednesday in southwestern Narail, Ekhlasuddin's hometown, in protest of the killing.

Meanwhile, the Press Information Department of Bangladesh said, Wednesday, that the death toll from last month's hurricane and tidal waves rose to 11,069 based on preliminary survey reports from Bangladesh's devastated south coast areas.

A statement by the PID said 4,264 bodies had been recovered and 6,805 people were listed as missing in the 24-25 May disaster. If the missing were presumed dead, the death toll would be 11,069, it added.

The toll previously had been estimated un-officially at well above 10,000, with 25,000 people missing. But as recently as Monday, the official toll was at 2,340 dead and 4,882 missing.

Rescue operations launched with four navy ships and a fleet of helicopters hours after the deadly hurricane hit the coastal belt and offshore islands have been called off, and the missing now are officially presumed dead.

Meanwhile, an outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases has claimed more than 160 lives in the hardest-hit areas — Urir Char, Sandwip and Companyganj.

The Dhaka-based International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases research has sent four medical teams to try and stem the outbreak.

Philippines celebrates Independence

AMMAN (Star) — The Philippines celebrated the 87th anniversary of its independence last week. On the occasion President Ferdinand Marcos, in a message to the people said that 'As we mark today the 87th year of Philippine independence, the labours before us are as great as the challenges and tasks we have already borne. And there remain — let us not forget — many dreams still to be fulfilled, many burdens still to be borne.'

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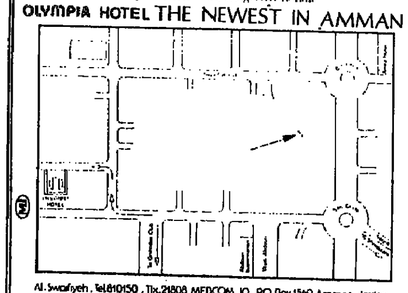

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How will the US react?

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Prospects of an American military action to free the passengers on the hijacked TWA Boeing 727 were still high as the 96 hour old skyjack prepared to enter its fifth day with no positive signs of a near ending.

While there are speculations that the American leadership had studied and taken decisions concerning military options to free the passengers, it is believed that any military action might end in a disaster. The plane, it has been announced will be dynamited as soon as the hijackers are attacked. A special American anti-terrorist team is in the region and American warships in East Mediterranean have been alerted.

Beirut airport has now opened for civilian traffic after the hijackers agreed that civil planes may resume using the facility.

The Reagan Administration Monday received with a sigh of relief assurances from Lebanese Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri that the hijacked American passengers have now been removed into safety from the plane parked at Beirut airport to a safe place somewhere in the city.

Berri, who was now handling the negotiations, was in telephone contact with US National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, assuring the US official of the safety of the hostages, but insisting that it is now up to Israel to release the more than 700 Shi'ites it holds in its prisons.

American officials considered it as a positive development that Berri was now in control and holding an open line with the US government.

But the conditions placed by Berri and the hijackers for the release of the hostages have obviously placed the Reagan Administration in a serious dilemma.

The dilemma is prompted by the determination of the US not to give in to any terrorist demands and, as a result, President Reagan and his top officials, have refused to publicly ask Israel to release the imprisoned Shi'ites in return for the release of the American hostages.

Israel has said it will consider any US request to release more than 700 Shi'ite Muslim prisoners to meet the demands of the hijackers who are holding dozens of Americans hostage in Beirut, but it will not accept a request from the International Red Cross, a government official said Monday.

BEIRUT — An armed hijacker walks outside the TWA Jetliner at Beirut Airport Sunday, shortly after the plane landed in the Lebanese capital for the third time in three days. (AP Wirephoto)

The official, speaking on condition he was not identified, said Israel has had no contact with the Red Cross and had not been asked by the United States to take action.

The hijackers demanded on Sunday that the Red Cross works quickly before its too late to win the release of the Lebanese Shi'ites imprisoned in Israel.

One report said Monday, that warships, believed to be either American or Israeli, were spotted across Beirut's shores, while Lebanese nationalist militiamen opened fire on an Israeli boat in the Mediterranean.

Militiamen at Beirut Airport and nearby areas are under alert to face a possible military landing to rescue passengers of the hijacked American plane.

Security sources said that nationalist and Muslim forces in West Beirut opened fire on an Israeli boat forcing it to take to open sea. The boat was patrolling the coastal area next to the airport.

Airport sources said the hijackers have taken measures to explode the plane in case of any military landing by foreign forces. They pointed out that the American Delta force is currently in the Mediterranean.

In another development the Associated Press reported Monday that a British commando squad has flown to Cyprus to monitor events surrounding the hijacking of the TWA jetliner. The report said the squad is from the elite Special Air Service, the British equivalent of the US Special Forces.

The report said the SAS team, numbering no more than five, would not take part in any attempt to free the Americans held hostage aboard the hijacked plane.

Meanwhile, former British Foreign Secretary David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, urged the United States not to use force to free the hotages.

"As far as the Americans are concerned, they have to rein back their indignations," Owen said in a radio interview with the British Broadcasting Corp.

Jordanian-Palestinian meetings begin

By Star Staff Writer and Agencies' reports

AMMAN — A series of Jordanian-Palestinian meetings were expected to start on Monday night beginning with a meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Arafat arrived in Amman Monday morning for consultation with King Hussein who returned from a visit to the United Kingdom and the United States.

The meetings will discuss the outcome of King Hussein's discussions with US President Ronald Reagan on ways to involve the Palestinians in the peace process based on the Palestinian-Jordanian accord of 11 February this year and Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

Another issue will be the holding of the emergency Arab Summit meeting, which was called for by Morocco, to discuss the attacks against the Palestinians in Lebanon.

But the most important issue will be the upcoming Joint Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue with the United States, which is expected to begin in July. The Star has learned that the PLO chairman will propose names of members of the PLO Executive Council who were never involved with military actions such as Mr Mohammed Milhem and Bishop Elia Khouri, who have met with senior American officials before.

A Kuna report quoting an article in an Italian magazine 'Panorama' said Monday that the Jordanian- Palestinian delegation for Middle East peace negotiations with the United States will be led by the Court Minister Mr Adnan Abu Odeh.

The delegation said the report will include a number of West Bank notables and the list of nominees is topped by Rashed Al-Shawa, Elias Freij, Professor Edward Said, Walid Al- Khaldi and Hashim Al-Sharabi.

Other reports quoting Italian sources said a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will visit Italy a few days before the European Summit in Milano.

INSIDE
WorldPaper

THE PAIN AND PROGRESS OF WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

•Violence: the common threat against women everywhere.

•In the US, progress has created new problems.

•A young Thai woman tells of her life of forced prostitution.

•Plus, the 'New Coke' is it.

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The Star has learned...

- **Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline has decided to suspend its flights to and from Beirut following the criminal act which led to the blowing up of an Alia Boeing 727 plane in Beirut last week.**
- **The government has completed a comprehensive study on different manufacturing companies producing the same goods, in an effort to merge them. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce has also completed a study to protect the goods of local companies from the competitions of foreign companies.**
- **The Foreign Ministry has asked all Jordanian embassies abroad to encourage international and Arab organizations interested in using Amman as a centre for their activities. They should also work to encourage those who want to hold seminars and conferences in Amman.**
- **The government is considering the appointment of a number of commercial, tourist and information attaches to Jordanian embassies abroad next year.**

Starting from the first day of the feast. The Hungarian International Circus At the Al-Hussein Sports City —The Public Garden.

Price: Jordan 150 fils — Saudi Arabia & Qatar 3 riyals — UAE 3 dirhams — Kuwait & Bahrain 250 fils — Syria & Lebanon 3 pounds

The International Hungarian Circus

The Hungarian Circus begins on the first day of the (Eid) at Al-Hussein Sports City (public garden) according to the director of the Festival, Mr Rasim El-Khafsh.

The Hungarian world circus is one of the best in the world, it comes next to the Russian circus in regard to the show and world fame. The Hungarian circus now in Amman consists of 75 male and female players who will give various displays. There are six lions and three panthers, and a number of horses and dogs who will give unparalleled displays. There is another attraction also: A Barber's shop in which elephants can shave for any member of the audience without charge.

Mr Khafsh added that there will be acrobatic shows of which Jordanian people are fond of. The acrobats will show that man can perform the most difficult sports and gymnastics during two and half hours. He added that there are in the public garden several plays for children in which they can take part in gratis before the circus begins.

There are also local groups who will sing during the circus festival which every person can watch before the start of the circus. There are amenities for the visitors such as a big cafeteria and car park. Entry of cars will be from gate No. 4 and pedestrians from gate No. 2. There is another car parking east of the stadium which can accommodate 1000 cars free of charge.

The show tent can take 3,000 people. The seats are numbered and organised. The entrance fee is JD 1. Mr Khafsh said 250 seats were reserved for those who support the festival, the ticket price of which is JD 4 and JD 5.

The director of the circus Mr Radouti Tomash stated that preparations for the festival started six months ago. "We have given various shows during the last fifty years in almost all parts of the world. We participate every year also in the World Monte Carlo in Paris and we have won several prizes and medals. In 1980 we won the golden cup for the festival," Mr Tomash added. He said Amman show will be the same as that to be performed in Monte Carlo which will be held in October of this year. He added that this festival is the first of its kind to be held in Jordan and second in the Middle East. The same festival was held in Kuwait where it was warmly welcomed by the Kuwaiti audience.

On Wednesday the Egyptian actress Layla Hamada will participate in the festival and she will give some circus shows. Also, a number of Jordanians will take part, such as Musa Hijazin. Besides, the festival administration has contacts with several Egyptian artists so as to ensure their participation in the festival.

Fortune tellers in Jordan

Who are their clients?

How true are their predictions?

IT WAS a hot Friday morning when we decided to take a chance and head towards Jerash. The car's gasoline was low, and so was the air pressure in one of the front tyres.

We had started off later in the morning than planned, and no matter how we fiddled with the knobs of the tape recorder, Laura Bradigan's voice boomed out too loud. But as we were four young ladies with our lives ahead of us, we figured that we would survive any misfortune that may arise.

It seemed quite strange that as university degree holders, we were turning back to the rituals of our female ancestors, into the magical, mysterious and mystifying world of fortune telling. But we consoled ourselves with the fact that we were on this mission for an article our editor asked us to do.

At the same time, we were secretly pleased to have such an opportunity — or in other words, we were not the least ashamed that we were educated young ladies seeking out our fortunes the way our almost illiterate grandmothers did a century ago.

* * * * *

Selecting the town of Jerash was incidental. A contact of ours had generously provided us with a list of half a dozen names of well-known fortune tellers — all who performed their business from their homes in Jerash. We reckoned, nevertheless, that if nothing came up for a story, we would at least obtain some practice in the ride to Jerash, a distance which is soon to be covered daily during the mid-July Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts.

The sleepy town of Jerash was bustling with activity at the downtown area before the noon prayers were called. With our car parked in front of a grocer's shop, and the grocer staring at us, we read the list of Abu So-and-Sos and Um This-and-Thats which were accompanied by vague misleading address.

We assumed that the residence of one should not be too far away from where we were. As it turned out, when we parked the car for the second time to ask people where the homes of this fortune tellers were, we found we were parked right next to it. The fortune teller, according to his wife, was not at home, but his neighbour, whom we shall call Um Ali, was in and her name was on our list.

Accompanied by a group of her women neighbours, Um Ali approached the car, and through the opened window of the driver's seat, invited us to her house which was located only three steps below street level and hidden amidst a conglomeration of fruit trees.

* * * * *

Typical of any house built in rural areas over fifty years ago, this house consisted of three separate rooms, the entrances of which were adjacent to an opened cement-paved courtyard. The guest/living room into which Um Ali directed us consisted of a green straw mat on which lay three green matresses on which we were to sit crossed-legged.

A black and white television set was placed on a large green-covered table. The green walls were without pictures and the green curtains were not large enough to cover the broken window.

Two of Um Ali's adolescent daughters entered the room to welcome us. Whereas the younger of the two did not have much to say for herself, her elder sister did — making us feel quite uncomfortable as the first thing she said was directed to our colleague who was fasting. "If you are fasting, then why do you have lipstick and rouge on?" she asked.

Um Ali sat on one of the matresses and looked at us with her amazingly sharp and keen black eyes. These were eyes that definitely can extract information clients tend not to say that of gestures and facial expressions.

She told us a bit about her own experience as far as fortune telling was concerned. She began fortune telling over 20 years ago, following dreams or "visions" she had at the tender ages of 13 and 14. She then frequented the Samaras of Palestine — the Arab Jews who are famous for their fortune-telling, witchcraft and even black-magic.

Yet, she stressed, her ability to look into the future was a special gift. A gift from whom, she did not specify. But she made it clear that her information is given by her 'master' who is a genie who lives in the underworld. All the money she makes from her 'gift,' she said, goes to her 'master' whom she has made a covenant to serve and please him.

This requires that she cooks daily a quantity of food rich with costly ingredients which is left for her 'master' to 'eat'. Later on in the discussion, though, she said that the food prepared is consumed by her family, neighbours and friends — contradicting herself.

"So, what do you want to know?" she asked us. "Do you want my help in attracting any prospective husbands?" We looked at each other in utter surprise. "Actually, we just want to see what the future has for us — in general terms", answered the most courageous among us.

Um Ali seemed not to like this request, yet, she started from our colleague sitting at the extreme right and asked her name and that of her mother's. Um Ali apparently could neither read nor write, but she tended to fill an empty sheet of page with dashes and marks.

* * * * *

Then, Um Ali, with her eyes shining, began to swing her body back and forth as if in a trance, mumbling to herself. To our surprise, she placed her left palm against her right shoulder, patted the area and mumbled "Yes, Master, Yes, Master". Reading "Alladeen and His Lamp" as children was a fascinating experience, but this one was an awkwardly terrifying one. We fidgeted on the matresses, staring at the door and calculated how long it would take us to escape if the need arose to do so.

Um Ali raised her head up slowly and her eyes pierced into those of our colleague as if penetrating into her mind.

"No matter what you do, no matter what you say, no matter what you wear, and no matter where you go — you are forever envied by all," she began, using the highly poetic words of Arabic language. She also added that our colleague suffered from severe headaches, which was true. Um Ali explained this is the result of some spell cast against her.

Nevertheless, her rambling moved on to our colleague's personal life, where the opposite sex is concerned. The three of us laughed outright. She had no one as far as we knew and the look on her face said the same. Um Ali at once, changed the subject.

The second of our colleagues was told that someone in her family is ill, which is true. Um Ali said that she had a very bright and successful future ahead of her.

"You get along very well with members of the opposite sex, but you have no luck in dealing with those of your own," Um Ali told a third colleague after having taken her name and that of her mother's. "You are well liked by all and very popular, but there are those who wish you ill. There is a man who likes you very much and wants you, as much as you want him — but I do not know what is hindering both of you". "Really!" said our colleague, baffled and surprised at the latter of this news. We all stared at her, giving her rebuking looks

Continued on page 4

Palmistry: One of the many forms of fortune telling by studying the lines in the palm, type of hand, fingers, thumb and nails.

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ortune tellers in Jordan

ntinued from page 3

r being too subjective and eaking the promise we had ear- r made about being more ob- ctive.

"Why do you turn the "gen- men callers" down when they me to ask your family for your nd in marriage?" was the first ing Um Ali uttered to our urth colleague. Our friend gig- sd embarrassingly, as the rest us looked at her astonishingly we never knew that.

It took Um Ali about one and lf hours to read our fortunes. though she had varied in giv- g details for each of us, the er all outcome was that all four us had bright futures, and that mething bad had been done to event us from achieving the od things in life. The latter, n Ali explained, can be rev- sed easily by her conducting a ual which would involve the mendel" or the practice of ntemplating a mirror-like sur- ce of oil and candles. This, by e way, costs JD 25 per person conduct. "Thank you but no ank you," we said. "Maybe ce the Ramadan month is er."

• • • • •

We then steered the conversa- n towards fortunetelling. "It a gift which should only be ed for doing good, but there those who misuse it to per- rm evil acts, such as inflicting sanity on a person, breaking arriages or even make a person il his or her examinations at hool," Um Ali said.

Who are the people who fre- ent fortunetellers? They come m all walks of life. Both male d female, rich and poor, rural d urban, married and single, ployer and employee — all th their different aims such as ssing examinations, succeed- g in business, solving personal d domestic problems.

But the majority of the clients e unmarried young women at- mpting, through the world of e supernatural, to secure tential husbands out of men ey already know or, for those o are desperate, of any man.

Married women tend to seek lutions to their marital prob- ns, topping the list are wife- ating, preventing husbands m taking a second wife, or to t a rival out of the family pic- re. This, or they come to seek sbands for their single daught- s or sisters.

When we were about to leave, paid Um Ali the fee she char- s for reading fortunes — JD 1 r person. We then drove away a small secure alley where we rked the car. Here, we began gather our thoughts and awake om the semi-stupor in which felt we were.

• • • • •

We were determined to carry with the mission — now more curious than frightened. Five minutes later, and as if a hidden hand was guiding us to our destination, we found the residence of another fortune teller whose name we had on our list. This was after we asked a grocer near the cluster of restaurants in Jerash.

"Oh, so you are going to see the fortune teller Um Mustafa who lives next door to this place," the grocer said offhandedly, busy with giving us the directions.

Um Mustafa actually turned out to be Abu Mustafa, as we will call him. Abu Mustafa is an old man with a dark face, long nose and greenish eyes. His white robe was spotted and turning grey, and he had hang-nails.

After giving us a hearty welcome, Abu Mustafa asked us to wait in the front room until he finished with another client. It was after some 20 minutes that we were asked to enter his "office", after which Abu Mustafa 'disappeared'.

As we squeezed on the only and worn out sofa, we thought it was quite strange that his office was clustered with dozens of boxes of paper tissues, stacks of unused notebooks and tins of yoghurt set to be churned. He must be a trader in real life, we thought. His desk was old and yet one can tell that it used to be a very beautiful piece of work which had seen better days. What made us even more uncomfortable was the setting of the desk, which had its chair placed with its back towards us.

• • • • •

The clash of colours in the room and the items it enclosed generated an eerie feeling in us. But this did not prevent two of our colleagues from snooping — as reporters and detectives do. The pages of the used notebooks on his desk were full with writings in a language which used the Arabic alphabets. Everything was carefully written in red ink.

When Abu Mustafa returned, he asked, "What have you come to me for?" He then explained that he refuses to read fortunes or conduct any witchcraft during the month of Ramadan, but was willing to see whether any evil spell had been cast on us. While talking, with half of his body turned away from us, he showed us clearly about his temper and patience by moving rapidly and irritatingly things about of his desk. First was the notebook, then a red pen, followed by an empty ashtray and then back to the notebook to once again continue the cycle.

With his right leg jerking back and forth in impatient short movements, he asked for the name of our first colleague and that of her mother. This colleague was the one who had earlier snooped about his items the most, and we were not sure it was due to pure coincidence that Abu Mustafa made it clear that he disliked her.

"You are a spitfire — you cannot sit still because of the fire within you," he told her ignoring to maintain any eye contact with her. "And there is some evil cast on you," he said.

After taking a couple of minutes to calculate the letters of the names into numbers, Abu Mustafa faced the gathering and spoke to the second colleague. He said she was envied by all. She also has some evil cast against her. This was the same colleague Um Ali had described earlier as being envied by all.

The readings for our third was not so much different from those of the first two. But, that of the fourth was slightly different.

"You are well-liked by members of the opposite sex, very popular but you have enemies who want to retard your progress," he said.

• • • • •

Although he refused to say any more, he was quite willing to talk about his life as a fortune teller.

"This is a trade passed on through the generations starting with my great-grandfather. I have sons who are engineers and doctors, graduates from the United States, but will one day continue the work once I cannot," he explained. Abu Mustafa emphasised that such knowledge should never be misused, whether by a fortuneteller or his clients. He cited as an example people who request that evil be cast against certain people they dislike. "But how would you like it if someone tried to break your marriage? Haram!" he said.

Abu Mustafa disclosed that he was 70 years old — a figure the four of us found it hard to believe. He could not have been more than sixty. He shocked us by saying that he had married 11 women during his lifetime four of which are currently living with him.

We paid Abu Mustafa his fee of 500 fils per client but were not permitted to leave until he had told us about an incident when one client tried to trick him into breaking a marriage so that this client could get married to the estranged wife.

"I performed some black magic which turned him into a lunatic wandering in the wilderness. He deserved this because he was not honest and tried to fool me," Abu Mustafa said.

• • • • •

We could not help wondering whether we would one day end up in the wilderness raving about as lunatics if Abu Mustafa found out that our visit was more than just to know about our future. When we came out and got into the car, we heaved a sigh of relief.

It was almost 2:00 pm when we decided to see a third fortune teller. According to the given address, Abu Nabil's home was located on the outskirts of Jerash towards the east. En route, we stopped a six-year old boy to ask where Abu Nabil lived. "Over here", he said, pointing to a small farm house. We were by then not surprised that for the third time round we had found our way about the old town of Jerash as if we had lived there for years.

It was a small and neat farm with a couple of goats, some ducks and pigeons, and a cat. Abu Nabil greeted us warmly and directed us towards a small separate room some 200 metres from the house.

People in the rural areas tend to be more superstitious hence the great respect for the supernatural

Abu Nabil is a jolly but thin man who has the touch of making everyone feel at home with him. His wife had the same characteristics.

Abu Nabil took time to make sure that we were comfortably seated on the two mattresses put specially for us. After our two previous experiences, we were somewhat hesitant in trying to start a conversation. We were even uneasy in relaxing our postures.

When Abu Nabil looked at us with his soft blue eyes, we asked him about what he can do. He readily gave us a verbal resume which listed reading horoscopes, telling the future, finding whether evil has been cast against a client and reversing it.

For a change, we decided to see what the stars had in store for us. The colleague sitting nearest to him gave her name and that of her mother. While Abu Nabil was putting the letters of the names into figures, he told us that he picked up his knowledge of the supernatural from two Moroccan men famous for their skills.

Nevertheless, telling fortunes and performing witchcraft rituals was not his profession, but rather a hobby. "What is your constellation — the one you read in magazines?" he asked our colleague, after explaining that he has no trust in dates given as birth dates which can be faulty at times. Our colleague, according to Abu Nabil's calculations, turned out to be a Pisces rather than an Aries. He stressed that she would have a successful life with a wonderful future.

"A spitfire you are, but an attractive one for the opposite sex. Beware of highplaces and cold water," he said.

He then began reading the Aries horoscope from an old worn out book which he explained was passed on to him by his teachers. The descriptions fitted our colleague to the point.

"Your first born will be a girl," he said. "And there is someone for you who will kneel to you and worship you, as the ring on your finger." All these were said in beautiful phrases in Arabic.

Our other colleague turned out to be a Cancer instead of a Virgo. There was definitely some evil spell on her. "You have headaches at times and other times you do not care about things around you," he pointed out, explaining that this is one of the effects of the evil spell.

He added that she would become a widow and would remarry unless her first husband has a birthmark on his chest. Up till now our colleague has to put up with our teasings that she has to be sure that any potential husband shows his chest before she decides to marry him.

"Are you a teacher?" he asked our third colleague who turned out to be a Capricorn rather than an Aquarius. We had earlier decided that it would be for the best to evade telling any of the fortune tellers that we were reporters, so our colleague gave a slight nod of the head. "Well, you tend to beat up your students a lot and pull their hair from the roots," he said, laughing.

We joined in laughing as well, for although not a teacher, our colleague was known notoriously for her childhood playground fights where she always left behind her bloody noses and torn-out hair.

Although quite popular and well-liked, some evil has been put on her, according to Abu Nabil. He continued by saying that she would marry a dark tall man and would finally give birth to a baby boy after a series of miscarriages. "Oh! Can't it be a girl?" she asked quite seriously.

The fourth of us, an Aries and born on the same day as our first colleague, was found to be a Aquarius. Reading out her horoscope from his book, Abu Nabil said she would lead a quiet life which in its own way would be quite successful. The father of her sons and one daughter would be a tall handsome man with a slightly big nose and receding hair. After over two and a half hours spent with this man and his family, we were somewhat sorry to leave the place. But we promised to return, this time sincerely. Abu Nabil refused to take any fees. "I usually take 250 fils, per person" he said. "But what can one dinar do? Please, I do not want any money", he said.

On the road to Amman and in a better mood than we were, thanks to Abu Nabil, we pondered about the whole matter of fortune telling, witchcraft and black magic. How much truth is in witchcraft and the world of the supernatural is a question as old as man, yet, never can be answered. But whether we like it or not, it does exist, and it has its continuous flow of clients and those interested deeply in its magic and myth.

By Kathy Kakish with the help of Salwa Sukhon, Henrietta Sukhon, and Sawsan Musallam.

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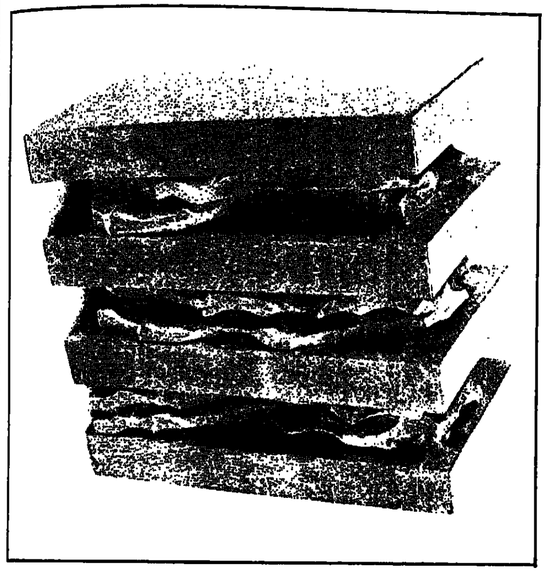

The sandwiching of smooth and ruffled slabs is one solution to the problem of order

Like a miniature Stonehenge

Sculptor Samer Tabbaa

A gifted translator of the stone world

By Vanessa Batrouni
Special to the Star

MANY MAY know Samer Tabbaa as the former director of Jordan's National Gallery which he helped to establish in the early 1980s, but not all realise that he is one of Jordan's foremost sculptors and very much the artists' artist.

Samer's reserved, contemplative nature finds total expression in his chosen medium, a talent he tripped over while doing an arts and crafts course after graduating in sociology and anthropology.

In his recent work smooth and unsmooth components express the positive and negative components of life

Working with manual crafts he discovered a "rightness" that had escaped him in his earlier studies and encouraged by his teacher he took a Fine Arts degree at Youngstown State University which led to a masters degree in Fine Arts majority in sculpture from Kent State University in 1979. Feeling his way through the materials, Samer sculpted in wood, in metal and in stone, and it is to stone that he has finally committed himself.

It is the challenge of stone that so attracts this talented sculptor to work with it. Its "strong resistance to his ideas, its powerful individuality" opens communication channels and ignite a flow of ideas between sculptor and sculpted.

Different types of stones evoke various thoughts and emotions and the artist finds himself responding spontaneously to the separate personalities of granite, limestone and alabaster which pose varying degrees of resistance. This spontaneity acts as a catalyst unlocking the unconscious and its secret store and the artist can only analyse his work after the event.

Samer's description of his work process is a significant key to his sculpture. His attraction for an already existing form or forms within a piece of stone predisposes to a collaboration with his material rather than its subjection. Acting like an natural agent, such as the wind, sea and air. He marks it, scores it, fashions it yet leaves its personality intact. This approach and the absence of a conscious and intellectual pre-planning imbues his work with a universality that many critics praise in his sculpture.

Formalist

"More a formalist than an illustrator and not limited to parochialism" Samer draws out qualities in stone that speak voicelessly to all.

Samer Tabbaa

Samer developed his style, or rather his approach, during a voluntary exile in Spain where, despite a language barrier, he established himself soon after leaving the National Gallery. Earlier pieces testify to his battle with stone; less manipulated and more emotional he learnt through accidents.

He created tension through unequal volumes, balancing larger pieces on small, exercised his will over the stone by cutting through it or by hanging the unhangable and even tried to recreate its magical properties through its spatial relationships with other pieces of stone in a miniature Stonehenge that is now on display at the National Gallery.

Translator

Through these experiments and experiences Samer has become more than a carver, he has become a translator of the "stone" world.

In touching the unconscious, Samer has come to understand the natural law of the positive and negative components in life without which cognisance isn't possible. This observation now obsesses him and the expresses its truth with a simple eloquence in his most recent work; smooth and unsmoothed surfaces alternate with each other as do volume and space and his work has moved towards a "musical" order and control.

This is evidenced by a V shaped structure that stands in his living room where black lines are repeated on white and white lines on black. Parallel lines seem best to serve his idea and he transfers this to stone sandwiching smooth and ruffled slabs together.

Saudi Arabia

Samer's international appeal and monumentality has gained him recognition in the area and he was commissioned to design sculptural pieces for the new airport in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Having seen the space he produced two relief works again based on opposing lines, the one inspired by the concave and convex undulations of sand dunes and the other which was accepted a portcullis of raised iron bars that emulate kites and aerial landscapes.

Samer also put forward a design for the Queen Alia Airport, a towering twelve metre high plexi glass structure that by day would take life from without by reflecting its surroundings and by night would take life from within, lit like a small computer.

Samer believes his work is becoming more streamlined and less emotional being less concerned with the challenge and more absorbed by the idea. Art lovers will get an opportunity to see his latest work in the near future as he is presently working on pieces for an exhibition whose date will be set later.

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Paying the price

HIJACKING CIVILIAN planes to further "the cause" is the mood in Lebanon. And the Shi'ites are doing it for the second time in less than a week. The situation in Lebanon's airport is so chaotic that the Lebanese government has decided to lift its hands and abandon its sovereignty over it.

The wave of gangsterism and the spirit of the 'old wild west' had won the day and Lebanon, or what is left of it, is the main loser. No longer can one trust the law or those who claim to enforce it. Every time the ill-fated American airliner landed at Beirut airport, more terrorists boarded. Meanwhile, the rest of the world looked on unable to make a decent comment. No where in the world have international laws and agreements been shoved away before mad men, mad states and mad supporters.

First it was Israel, who taught those who did not know, how to treat the United Nations and its resolutions. Israel organized state terrorism and blessed those who carried the law by their own hands — as long as these hands were in favour of Israel. The Zionist state ridiculed the United Nations and made a mockery of international law.

Such actions required frustrated reactions and as the main victims, the Palestinians saw that their case was about to be buried by beautifully-orchestrated Israeli propaganda, they had to do something. And so they took to acts of terrorism — hijacking planes and kidnapping athletes. We never condoned these acts, but we also never stopped asking the world to understand the motives and the reasons.

And thus revolutionary terrorism was born and became the only legitimate reply to state terrorism. It was adopted in North Ireland, South Africa, Nicaragua during Somoza, in Spain by the Basque and by many others. We still do not condone acts of terrorism, but again we say that in a world where international laws are applied by those who care and rejected by those who do not care, injustice is bound to occur and victims are born.

The situation we have today is an ugly one. Already two innocent victims were killed by the hijackers who now act as judge, jury and executioner. They must be stopped and a strong reaction is needed. But as the angry call for punishment, the wise must ask the question: Why has this cycle started in the wrong direction. Surprisingly, and even as the Amal men fight the Palestinians in their camps for the fourth or fifth week, the cause of Amal, the Lebanese and others are tied to that of the Palestinians. And from there once again we talk about Israel, who started it all.

The Americans are just tasting the spillover of the chaos, the loss, the confusion and the bitterness that Israel has created in this area.

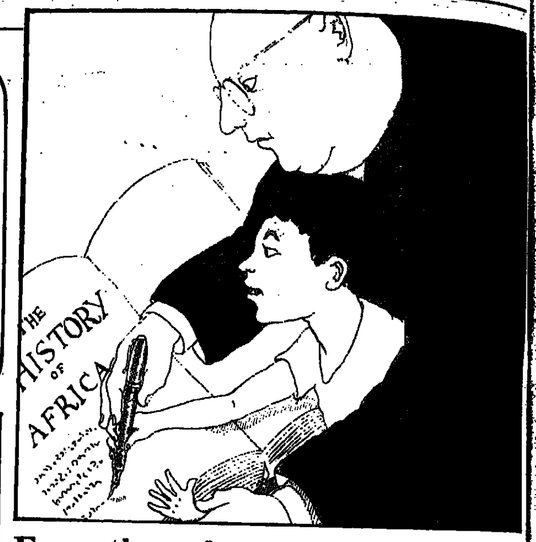
Judicious offer

IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein, relentless in his efforts to end the Gulf War has announced that Iraq was halting attacks on Iranian cities for two weeks starting from Saturday. President Hussein also offered Iran a five-point peace plan including a ceasefire and direct negotiations. These are the latest of the numerous peace overtures made to Iran by Iraq to end the bloody war described by some people as the 'senseless war' which has raged on and off for 57 months.

Iraqi efforts to end the war should not be viewed as conceding defeat, but a genuine attempt to get rid of an unnecessary war which has claimed and continues to claim precious lives and destroying rich resources of both countries. The offer comes in the wake of renewed clashes and air attacks in the past week since the lull in the so-called 'war of cities' in which both Iraq and Iran bombarded each other's capitals and other strategic cities without regard to the civilian population.

Since it takes two to start a war and it takes two to stop it, it is very important that Iran at this stage reciprocates the Iraqi gesture for peace. The government in Tehran has been adamant in its rejection of any peace with Iraq and turned down all peace proposals. Yet we ask, for how long can Iran continue the war in which no one wins anything?

It was time the Iranians returned the same goodwill the Iraqis have shown. And the other external parties who have hitherto been making strenuous attempts to bring the war to an end should also not relax on their oars. They should increase the momentum and get the Iranian leaders to the conference table to talk peace. The Iranians must be made to understand the need for peace in the Gulf and its advantages to all the countries in the region.



From the other side

Is the US on the road to recognition?

● ISRAELI MILITARY sources have stated that US Assistant Secretary of State Mr Richard Murphy is all set to begin the first round of negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian team. The sources said the talks could begin as early as the end of this month or beginning of July.

What is serious about this incident, the sources said, is that the meeting will confirm the fact that the US administration is ready to accept Palestinian rights for self determination and also — more critical for Israel — could soon recognize the PLO and launch contacts with its members.

The sources said that Israel must upset this new development by insisting that the people of the disputed occupied Arab territories must have a larger margin of representives in the joint delegation. It added that King Hussein's determination to hold an international peace conference might force the United States to reconsider its current objections to this idea. The sources also said the PLO might declare its recognition of the UN Security Council's Resolutions numbers 242 and 338 in return for a US recognition of Palestinian rights. If Washington gives such legitimacy to the PLO, the sources said, then the whole state of US-Israeli relations could change drastically.

Japan gets involved

● JAPAN IS working for better relations with Israel, a military source told Israel's Army Radio this week. This development is the product of Japan's new policy which seeks to involve the Japanese more in the peace process of the Middle East.

Japan's foreign minister has extended an invitation to Israel's Foreign Minister Mr Yitzhak Shamir to visit Tokyo for "very serious discussions" as it was described by senior Japanese officials. This is the first time that Japan has worked to strengthen its state of relations with Israel, the sources said.

The main Israeli expectations are for an open Japanese markets for sophisticated Israeli products. It has been revealed that the new Israeli consul to Hong Kong has already left Israel to take over his duties which include establishing trade contacts with the People's Republic of China and a number of Asian countries.

Israel's Communications Minister Amnon Robinstein, who is in Tokyo in an official visit, has said that if the Arabs follow the late Anwar Sadat's trail and accepted to co-exist with the Israelis, then even the issue of Jerusalem could be put on the negotiating table.

Carter reveals a secret

● AN ISRAELI military source has said that former American president Jimmy Carter told an associate that during his term as president of the United States not one single Arab leader had requested US involvement in the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. He said that such rhetoric was said before the media only and was never seriously mentioned during Carter's talks with Arab leaders

Another Entebbe?

● IN AN Israeli cabinet session on Sunday headed by Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Deputy Chief of Staff Gen. Dan Shomron suggested that an elite commando unit from the Israeli Army storm the hijacked American airliner and free the hostages Shomron said that a successful rescue operation will do enormously to the state of the US-Israeli relations, which was tense lately. Gen. Shomron is the same man who headed the dramatic raid on Entebbe in Uganda in the seventies.

A number of ministers, including Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, supported the proposal, but Peres suggested further contacts with the US administration before any military action could be adopted.

In a related development, the Israeli government requested officially from the leader of the Amal movement Mr Nabih Berri to intervene in the TWA hijacking and end the trauma. In a message sent by Rabin to Berri, the defence minister said that any injury to the lives of the American hostages at the hands of the Shi'ite hijackers will harm Amal-Israeli relations which witnessed some progress lately. Rabin said that Israel will eventually release the Shi'ite prisoners it holds, but will not do so under pressure or as a result of terrorist acts.

The message was relayed to Berri by an Amal officer operating in South Lebanon. It was also revealed that the hijacked airliner was carrying senior American officials who were on their way home to the United States from a mission to a foreign country.

More Israelis renounce citizenship

● MORE THAN 1200 Israelis have submitted requests at Israel's Interior Ministry since the beginning of this year asking to renounce their Israeli citizenship. Sources said that this is double the number of those who filed requests for the same period last year.

Israel in Lebanon: A strategic success

Greetings to Jerusalem!

FUTURE HISTORIANS may get confused about the tortuous course of the Lebanese crisis, commenced in earnest in 1975. They may also be unclear as to who is fighting whom; who are the principal protagonists, enemies, supporters... etc! One thing they will, however, be clear about is that Israel has scored a definite strategic victory; this, in spite of the current writings in our local and other Arab newspapers that, somehow, have the capacity to turn victory into defeat and vice versa.

Numerous reasons stand behind the assessment that Israel won a strategic, long term victory in Lebanon, though tactically it may appear, especially to those experienced in wishful thinking, that Israel has lost. Chief among these reasons is the fact that Lebanon stood as an example of stability, liberality, participatory democracy and a free atmosphere, socially, politically and in terms of business enterprise.

This image stood in sharp contrast to that portrayed by Israeli and Zionist propaganda about the Arabs. Not only that, but the image deprived Israel of its claim to be the only democracy in the Middle East. The contrast was the more glaring keeping in mind that Lebanon was truly and genuinely a free society whereas Israel has always been only a "bandustan" type society with democracy only for the masters.

Because of that image, because of its onetime stability, Lebanon prospered. It was a free cultural, financial and also publishing centre. It was also a resting point, a resort, a place for investing and investment, in which Africa, Asia and Europe all met in a relaxed atmosphere. It was a point of contract of culture and commerce that stood in sharp contrast to the restrictive atmosphere elsewhere in the region and especially in Israel.

Lebanon's destruction was not a tactical move but a strategic one, demoralizing to the Arabs for a very long time to come. It was calculated to show them and others that the Arabs are incapable of achieving anything and that should they do so, they only demolish it later on. It is yet another distortion of the image of the Arabs designed to show them in the ugliest possible light. Since the early 1950's, Israel has been working for this and it finally, and with our help, succeeded.

Operation 'Peace For Galilee," as the Israelis called the invasion of Lebanon was also designed to divert the waters of south Lebanon into Israel. There seems to be a conspiracy of silence, both Arab and Israeli on this point. But the diversion of water was not the only diversion. The eyes of the world, if they mattered at all, were also diverted elsewhere from the Palestine problem, heart of the Middle East dilemma. This distraction effect gave and continues to give Israel time to strike further roots into the occupied territories. It gave Israel the time to 'settle', really colonize, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and to annex the Golan Heights and Jerusalem.

Lebanon's development, until its destruction, was genuine based on local initiative attracting offshore resources. And while there were dislocations, bad distribution and abuse, these would have been resolved with time had that been available. Israel's development was and remains an administration depending principally on outside initiative and resources.

Lebanon's genuine development only served to further expose Israeli failures. Its destruction was necessary in this area too. Lebanon's destruction was also helpful not only to Israel but in shifting Arab investment, or possible investment from Lebanon, from the Middle East to the West. What investor, Arab or non-Arab, would invest in a country, in a region so unstable?

The destruction provided the umbrella for 'Arab monies', hoarding after 1973, to fly elsewhere. The physical, political and moral destruction of Lebanon was also designed to prove the impossibility of sectarian coexistence providing Israel with yet another excuse to further fragment the region. Did Israel lose?

The misguided Israeli peace plan

THE SUCCESS OF His Majesty King Hussein's recent trip to Washington, and the new encouraging American flexibility towards the problems of the area that has also emerged as a result of the King's talks in Washington, must have been behind Israel's interest in proposing a five-step plan for peace.

While it should go without saying that any proposal for peace is better than nothing, and any constructive dialogue should be viewed as a step foreward in the desperate search for peace in this war-torn area, it should also be stressed that only proposals that are sincere, genuine and take into consideration the rights and obligations of all the parties concerned, have a chance of contributing to the prospects of peace in this part of the world.

Hence, the "new" Israeli peace proposal does not offer anything new, and does not seem to indicate that the Israeli leaders who proposed it are genuinely concerned about the suffering and the tragedies of many people as a result of the continued hostilities in our region. The Israeli leaders seem to be only concerned for their personal political gains within the structure of Israeli society.

The Israeli peace plan does not, for instance, cite any intention on Israel's part to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. It rules out any possibility of involving international parties in the peace process (other than the United States), and calls for direct consultations between some of the parties involved.

The most discouraging point in Israel's recent suggestion is the exceedingly omenous insistence of Israeli politicians to rule out any possibility of involving the Palestine Liberation Organization in the peace process. Israel's suggestion only make an ambiguous reference to "Palestinians from the administered territories" to take part as members of the Jordanian negotiating team. This fact led many analysts to conclude that Israel is not really interested in pushing the peace dialogue foreward. It is only interested in going on the record as having offered a proposal for peace, regardless of the rationality or feasibility of that proposal. Israel, therefore, seems to be only motivated by a tragic desire to score a point, rather than responding genuinely to Arab and international calls for a peaceful settlement for the region's crisis.

This short-sighted and misguided Israeli (peace proposal) lacks requirements necessary for achieving a lasting solution for the area's problems almost all the members of the international community (with the exception of Israel and the United States) recognizes the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. By trying to gloss over, ignore or side-step this fact, Israel does not even come close to expressing a real desire for peace. That is why the PLO did not waste much time in rejecting the Israeli proposal categorically and outright.

The Jordanian-Palestinian accord which calls for the involvement of all the parties concerned to participate in an international conference along with the five permanent members in the Security Council remains by far the only feasible proposal that guarantees the rights of all the concerned parties. It is, therefore, up to the United States and Israel to seize this opportunity before it is too late.

Memorandum *By Osama El-Sherif*

Family affair

LET ME introduce to you Mr Hamed, a typical Arab in typical Arabian times. He lives for today because he doesn't trust tomorrow, curses yesterday because he missed yet another chance to make him a rich man. He misses not democracy because he never tasted it. He fears men in uniforms, retirement and flying his national airline.

Hamed is the head of at least a five-member family. He works day and night, has two or three jobs, and never takes vacation lest it affects his delicate financial balance. He only reads the morning newspaper — mainly to check the prices of okra and watermelon — watches Arabic films and serials on his new colour television and hears nothing, but the latest gossip. When he speaks, one is expected to discuss with him the domestic affairs, the value of his shopping list — which is continuously on the rise — and the standing of the local football teams.

When Hamed and his family go out visiting, time is spent eating, drinking tea and coffee and playing cards until late hours of the night. On Fridays, Hamed's day starts at eleven, and after the 'foul' and 'hommos' breakfast, he prepares for the Friday prayer. The afternoons are spent watching the tube and so are the evenings. Again, the nights offer opportunities for visits and if Hamed is the host, then a video tape might be hired for viewing to break the monotony.

Hamed's children go to public school and are doing fine. But the father keeps wondering what to do when the kids are ready for university schooling. Ali wants to study engineering and so does Hatem, his sister Najwa and her little brother Shukri. Only Samira claims to aspire to become a doctor.

But Hamed is happy. It gives him great pleasure to come home, after finishing his third job, and see his children around him. Occasionally, Hamed is angered or frustrated because of financial burdens or the nagging of his wife, but generally he is a humble and quiet little man. He dreads politics and never discussed them in public. Once or twice he expressed his political thoughts. But he was under pressure and it was probably due to some ugly scenes they showed on television. Never mind, every man is allowed a fault... or two.

Hamed has big dreams that naturally justifies his desire to live. He plans to buy a small piece of land and build a house for his family. He has the welfare of his children in mind, especially now that Ali, the eldest, is only few years away from getting married. It is not a secret that Ali and his cousin Hiyam have been engaged to each other since they were babies. And besides Ali never complained of this arrangement.

Hamed also worries about the future. So he keeps buying a lottery ticket with the beginning of each month... Although his wife claims that it is a waste of money, Hamed keeps reminding her that their neighbour's life has changed considerably since he won the lottery two years ago. At least he bought a Mercedes and that is something every man dreams of having.

But away from all this Hamed is a content man. Today is all that matters to him when you come to the bottom of things. To tell you the truth, he can't afford to worry about tomorrow nor has he the time to do so. If Hamed shall die today, he will do so with a smile. Not only that, he supplied his house with a state of the art video-tape player, but his life insurance plus his few dinars in the bank are enough to keep his family on its feet until Ali can get a job

P.S.: If Hamed really dies today he will not be greatly missed nor will he be remembered for out there millions like him exist... playing cards at nights and sleeping with a smile.

Viewpoint

The diversion which the hijackers have sought

By Ya'coub Jaber

NO ONE in his sense condones the hijacking of passengers planes and endangering the lives of innocent people who normally have nothing to do with the cause that is being fought for, if there is any such cause.

The past two weeks witnessed a surge of hijacking incidents involving a Jordanian plane and a US TWA airliner. In between came the hijacking of a Lebanese Middle East Airlines plane by a Palestinian who apparently wanted to avenge the hijacking of the ALIA airliner by gunmen of the Shi'ite Amal movement.

The fact that ALIA and TWA planes were hijacked by Lebanese Shi'ites could shed some light on the purpose of the two operations. It seemed that the demands of the hijackers and the two operations as a whole were meant to divert Arab and world public opinion from the ruthless attacks on Palestinian refugee camps in West Beirut.

The atrocities committed by Amal militia and the Lebanese army Sixth Brigade have stirred up an angry wave of protest throughout the Arab world. Jordan played a prominent role in alerting Arab and international opinion to the plight of the beleaguered Palestinians in Beirut. At the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council in Tunis last week, Jordan was the staunchest advocate of firm collective Arab action to stop the massacre.

It might have been deemed that by hijacking the ALIA plane, Jordan would be intimidated and at the same time, attention would be drawn away from the persistent attacks on Palestinians in West Beirut.

In the case of the Jordanian plane, the demands of the hijackers were never really known. One of the reported demands was ridiculous. The transfer of all Palestinians from Lebanon. But it was the diversion that the hijackers had sought.

The drama of the TWA plane was more violent and tragic and most probably it was carried out by the same group, also with the aim of diverting attention from what the group thought would be the final battle for control of the Palestinian camps. When the plane was seized in Athens, it was said that between two to four gunmen were involved. After landing in Beirut, their numbers rose to between 12-15. The airport is in an area controlled by Amal militia.

Maybe, it is ironic to link the hijacking of an Arab plane to the hijacking of an American one. But both operations were intended to achieve the diversion goal. In the case of the TWA plane, the culprits might have sought to give the impression that they were after "nationalist" goals.

What gives support to this view is that the attempt by Amal militia and the Sixth Brigade to capture two refugee camps have foundered after more than three weeks of fierce assaults. The battle took so long beyond the original calculations. And as the ruthless attacks intensified, the need grew for a diversion. This must trigger fears that once the TWA drama is over, the same group may resort to another hijacking attempt if they failed in their bid to capture the camps.

At any rate, the hijacking dramas in the past two weeks should prompt quick action to settle the Middle East problem on just and acceptable basis. For it was the absence of a fair solution to the Palestinian question that gave vent to the rising of terrorism by certain groups who seek to further destabilize the region.

Middle East Press Review

THE HIJACK of the Jordanian passenger plane and blowing it up at Beirut airport, the continued attacks on Palestinian refugee camps in West Beirut and the call for an Arab summit are the leading topics in this week's press.

Al-Raya, a Qatari newspaper, calls for a firm common Arab stand against all kinds of terrorist actions carried out in some Arab countries under various pretexts.

"Arab states are required to declare unequivocally their rejection of receiving the hijacked planes or accepting the demands of the hijackers, who should be referred to courts at once to receive punishment," Al-Raya asserts.

It says that by such actions, the would-be hijackers would realize that they can no longer tamper with the lives of the innocent and that no problem can be solved by terrorism.

The Qatari paper asks for collective Arab action and says punishment of security violators must be severe because such people damage the Arab image throughout the world; the same as the Zionists have been trying to do.

On the situation in Beirut's refugee camps, **Al-Bayan** newspaper of Abu Dhabi writes that the disregard of resolutions taken by the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council in Tunis about an immediate ceasefire was expected in light of the present sad situation in the Arab world.

The Council's final statement, the paper remarks, was put in general terms and phrased as a sermon and avoiding to pinpoint the grave dangers emanating from the persistent attacks on the Palestinian camps; although Israel is the sole beneficiary from this tragic development.

Kahil — Middle East News

Davar

The paper laments the fact that the Arab world realizes that the situation resulting from these attacks is very dangerous but does nothing to stop the butchery. It adds that those who are launching the attacks will soon find out that they were not defeated when Israel occupied their land but when they directed their guns against their former comrades in arms.

within the framework of the PLO so that the captured land could be liberated.

Jordanian Press

Ad-Dustour newspaper in Amman writes that the plan of Israeli prime minister Shimon Peres about peace in the Middle East has nothing whatsoever to do with the required peace in the region and the PLO was right to reject the plan. Peres' plan, the paper writes, is merely an attempt by the Israeli prime minister to strengthen his Labour Party's alliance with the Likud bloc and other small parties which deny the Palestinians their legitimate rights.

Peres' plan, **Ad-Dustour** continues, is also an exposed attempt to evade answers to questions put to Israel by several governments and international groups following the submission of the Jordan-PLO accord which has been compassing increasing international support.

Al-Ra'i newspaper writes that there is no longer any justification for delaying the proposed Arab summit after 14 countries have accepted the proposal, bringing the quorum to completion. It adds that what remains now is to set the date for the summit after the venue has been agreed upon.

Al-Ra'i goes on to say that it is of utmost importance to speed up the convening of the conference as some recent events relating to the Palestinian question were quite unreasonable and meaningless.

The paper remarks that the availability of the quorum for the summit has at last liberated the Arab will from incompetence and this means that there is no longer a need for unanimity but for a majority which now should act to rid itself from dominance of the minority.

Al-Ra'i also notes that sticking to a majority vote in the past had often led to the adoption of loose, vague and weak resolutions which could not tackle Arab problems.

Israeli Press

All the Israeli newspapers this week wrote about the peace proposals by Prime Minister Shimon Peres. **Hadashot** says the peace plan disclosed by the Prime Minister embodies five points which, it seems, were imposed by the Likud and their extremist allies for the purpose of frustrating the American-Jordanian initiative. The new Peres plan does not embody real peace so much as obstruction of peace. Israeli successive governments, whether those of Labour or Likud, have in the past put obstructions in the way of just and comprehensive peace.

Peres' plan, writes **Hadashot**, is part of an Israel plan for the obstruction of peace. The same occurs when indications of peace appear in the horizon: That is Israeli government puts obstructions on the road to peace. The newspaper then asks the question: "Is not the time ripe to work for peace seriously and sincerely after tens of years of bloodshed in our region? Peres must bear his responsibility and work for peace more than at any time in the past". The paper adds this may be last chance for peace and "we must not lose this opportunity."

Writing on the same topic, **Davar** says Prime Minister Peres disclosed an Israeli peace plan which is neither clear nor serious. The plan involves in effect a refusal of American-Jordanian initiative. One might understand from this plan that Israel refuses all ideas and opinions which have been put forward recently by Washington.

Peres, says the paper, tried to merge in the plan the basis of Camp David accord but added to it some of other elements such as the support of the Security Council. This, writes **Davar** is indeed an ambiguous formula. Israel still insists on its position with regard to the appointment of Palestinians who will participate in the negotiations. Israel wants them from the occupied territories and maybe it wants even to choose them itself. But, the newspaper says, no reasonable man will accept this. How, asks the newspaper, does Israel arrogate to itself the choice of Palestinians for the negotiations.

While the Arab side has not imposed a similar condition as to the choice of the negotiating members of the other side; [illegible] what is the use of negotiations if they [illegible] carried out by persons who do not represent their people? "The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the paper says, and if Israel wishes to talk to Palestinians they must [illegible] from the PLO because it represents the Palestinian people with whom we wish [illegible] achieve peace with them." the paper concludes.

Rashit Koterit writes that the [illegible] peace plan postulated by the Prime Minister Shimon Peres is disappointing [illegible] says, "It cannot lead us to the [illegible] peace. Every time there is a glimmer of hope for a political solution the [illegible] pressure of Israel rises, so to speak, it becomes unstable, it prevaricates and [illegible] hears hundred of negative reactions."

"We must tell Shimon Peres," the newspaper adds, that "you have disappointed every person who had expected from you an objective and positive [illegible] and not general empty words." The paper says the peace initiative which Peres has proposed was in effect a veto on the [illegible] of those in government who obstruct [illegible] initial negotiations for a political solution and who say "no" to any proposal. Yitzhak Shamir, foreign minister according to **Rashit Koterit** exaggerated in his actions for, as soon as he hears that negotiations might begin he immediately "asks [illegible] go down to the shelters and begins to [illegible] the bells of danger."

During Camp David negotiations, [illegible] then Prime Minister Begin said that he would not examine minutely the identity of Palestinians who might be members of the Palestinian negotiating team. But [illegible] the present government wants to do [illegible] minute scrutiny and prevent Israel from negotiating with the PLO.

THE JERUSALEM STAR

Finance, business & economy

Jordan university awards JD 1.4 million contract

Jordan University presidency building

AMMAN — The University of Jordan has awarded the contract for the construction of its JD 1.4 million University Presidency building to Trans Orient Engineering and Contracting (Trocon).

The five storey, 9,614-square metre building, which is to be situated opposite the main library, will bring all the administrative officers attached to the presidency together in one building for the first time which should be a major contribution to administrative efficiency.

Work will begin on the building in July and completion time is 650 days.

The presidency building is one of several projects underway to improve the university's facilities and expand the range of its activities and a number of tenders for construction and equipment are under preparation.

Tenders were issued last week for interior design and furniture provision for the new student union building which is due to be handed over by the end of this year.

The University hospital's major expansion, a seven storey, 30,000-square metre Out Patients Department (OPD) is due for completion in mid 1986 and tenders for the dental clinical furniture and equipment are due to be issued within the next two months, with those for the other clinics coming by the end of 1985.

By Pam Dougherty
Star Staff Writer

Tenders for the construction and equipment of the main hospital and OPD boiler building are due within the next month while a new telephone exchange with 50 external and 1000 internal lines, extendable by fifty per cent, should be tendered within about two months.

The Director of the Engineering Department at the University points out that projects such as the OPD not only expand campus facilities but provide a major service for the community for whom the University of Jordan hospital is now a major public hospital.

Mid-August is the expected date for tenders for the approximately JD 1 1/2 million building for the new faculties of Pharmacy and Dentistry. Fixed and movable furniture for both will be tendered during the construction.

Studies are also underway for the establishment of specialist cancer, neurosciences and opthalmology centres. The university's engineering department is exploring the possibility of building the three centres as an extension to the existing hospital so that they can make use of some existing facilities.

The end of 1985 should also see the completion of designs for an approximately JD 1/2 million olympic size swimming pool. The architectural designs are already completed and work is underway on the mechanical works.

Dr William Dahdaleh emphasizes that with all this construction work underway, economy and efficiency in the use of the resources is a high priority. He says that the university design team uses the most economical designs which have a minimum of waste space, the use of local materials wherever possible and which aim for maximum use for any project.

He gives the example of the multi-storey car park and the multi-purpose hall both of which are scheduled for the university's next five year plan. The car park will be near the hospital and will serve it, the OPD, the engineering and medical facilities and the multi-purpose hall which could be sited close by for this purpose. A design which connects the two projects, which have a total estimated value of JD 51/2 million, is also possible.

But although the university is following an economic policy, it is still hoping to carry out a substantial JD 30 million worth of work under the 1986-1990 plan.

IN BRIEF

• AMMAN (Star) — According to the directorate of animal husbandry in the Ministry of Agriculture, the local production of fish during 1984 has considerably declined. It is so much compared with the imported quantities amounting to 7380 tonnes. The official sources said if local resources are exploited properly sufficient quantities of fish could be produced in excess of the local market needs, and it is therefore, necessary to encourage local producers. The reasons for the decline of fish production in Aqaba is due to the extensive navigation activities which prevent fishermen from entering the fishing areas.

• AMMAN (Star) — The Social Security Corporation has decided to participate in the projects for housing schemes for employees of certain number of institutions and companies. The projects include — Yarmouk Housing Scheme for JD 1 million, Fertilizer Company JD 1.5 million, Alia Housing Scheme JD 1 million, Jordan Cement Co. Housing Scheme JD 2 million, Phosphate Mining Co. JD 2 million and South Cement Co. JD 2 million.

Dr. Mohammad Mahdi Farhan, director general of the Social Security Corporation said that of the total loans amounted to JD 9.5 million, JD 8.7 has already been paid.

The corporation has also decided to participate in the housing schemes in Aqaba for employees of Arab Potash Co. (JD 180,000), Phosphate Mining Co. (JD 120,000) and Jordan Timber and Wood Industries (JD 120,000).

• THE REVENUE from customs in May this year reached JD 20,341,302 of which JD 11,778,982 were customs duties, 3,332,442, production fees, 1,760,857 fees collected by other departments, 3,332,442 deposits, and 157,367 fines and customs forfeitures.

Financial Market Report

Share prices up

By Mamdouh El Ghaly
Star Financial Market Analyst

MOST OF Financial market share prices have improved appreciably. While dealing in shares remained as it is compared to last week. It has been observed that the shares of banks' and financial institutions have had a steady improvement.

242,000 shares were handled at the market value of JD 430,000 divided among 645 contracts, an increase of 1 per cent compared to last week.

The daily handling average came to JD 107,000 with a deviation of 24.6 per cent or 6.1 per cent of total around this average, thus indicating instability, at the market.

The shares of 59 companies were handled from which 34 companies gained including:

1- Insurance of Jordan closing at JD 9.150 up from JD 8.400
2- Housing Bank closing at JD 1.670 up from JD 1.560
3- Aqarco closing at JD .700 up from JD .660
4- Petra Bank closing at JD 4.500 up from JD 4.250
5- Jordan Electric Power closing at JD 1.550 up from JD 1.480

8 companies lost including:

1- Philadelphia Insurance closing at JD 1.100 down from JD 1.130
2- Jordan Glass Manufacturing Co. closing at JD .520 down from JD .530
3- National Steel Manufacturing Co. closing at JD 1.230 down from JD 1.250

16 companies had no change in their share values.

In the over-the-counter market, more than 10,000 shares were handled at a market value of JD 500,000.

Trading in the regular market was distributed among the sectors according to the following percentages:

Sector	Market share	Last week's share
Banks	46.5%	58.7%
Industry	33.6%	23.3%
Services	12.1%	10.8%
Insurance	7.8%	7.2%

Prominent firms whose shares were traded, by sector

Banks (out of 19 traded)	Share of sector	Share of market
1- Arab Bank	37.6%	17.5%
2- National Bank	17.1%	7.9%
Industrials (out of 27 traded)		
1- Textile Industries	22.8%	7.7%
2- Arab Medicine Manufacturing Co.	11.3%	3.8%
3- Jordan Petroleum Refinery	10.3%	3.6%
4- Arab Aluminium Industries	7.1%	2.4%
Services (out of 5 traded)		
1- Jordan Electric Power	88.8%	10.8%
Insurance (out of 8 traded)		
1- Insurance of Jordan	44.2%	3.4%
2- Jordan-French Insurance	42.8%	3.3%

Weekly average record

Dates	Banks	Insurance	Services	Industries	Average
12/6	+.5%	Zero	+.7%	+.2%	+.3%
13/6	+.5%	+2.2%	+.3%	Zero	+.4%
15/6	+.5%	+.2%	+.2%	-.6%	+.2%
16/6	+.1%	+.2%	+1.2%	+.7%	+.8%
Total					+1.7%

ECONOMY BRIEF

Exploratory well spudded at Saaja field

ABU DHABI (Opecna) — A second exploratory well has been spudded about 40 miles south of the main producing area of Sharjah's 'Saaja' onshore oil and gas field.

The operators, the Amoco Sharjah oil company, plan to drill the 'Oweid 1' well to a depth of 11,000-12,000 ft. An earlier Wildcat well completed six months ago failed to yield results, according to the daily Gulf News.

Meanwhile, the capacity of the Saaja gas treatment plant is to be increased from 160 million to 240 million cu.ft of gas daily with the addition of a third molecular unit.

Baghdad water supply project commissions

BAGHDAD (Opecna) — The first phase of a $1.2 billion water project, designed to meet Baghdad's drinking water requirements to the end of the century, will be commissioned next month.

Water from the river Tigris will be purified, stored in a network of underground reservoirs and carried by pipelines to the city's four million population.

The first phase will provide 900 million litres of water a day. Output will be increased to two billion litres daily by 1992 and to three billion by 1996.

The project, a joint development by British and French firms, includes 14 main water pumping stations and a network of purification units, filters, draining plants and chemical processing equipment.

Kuwait fund loans to Jordan $311 million

AMMAN (Opecna) — The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has extended about $311 million in loans to Jordan for more than 20 development projects, including water, electricity and agricultural schemes.

Faisal Al-Khaled, director general of the fund, said following discussions with Jordanian Prime Minister Zaid Al-Rifai that $52.47 million went to the Hussein Thermal unit and an electricity project in Zarka area and $45.91 million to the King Talal dam scheme.

He added that the fund would provide a $22.95 million loan to co-finance the development of Al-Zarka river port.

Studies completed on Arab Food security

BAGHDAD (Opecna) — The Arab Organization for Industrial Development has completed feasibility studies on four major agro-industrial projects as part of an integrated Arab food security plan.

The studies consist of two vegetable oil projects in Sudan and Mauritania, a fish canning plant in South Yemen and an agricultural complex for production of animal fodder in the Gulf.

The schemes were considered at a meeting in Kuwait last week of a special working group on Arab food security.

First Indonesian-built oil tanker delivered

• JAKARTA (Opecna) — The first oil tanker built by PT PAL, the state-owned shipbuilding company, has been delivered to Pertamina, the National Oil Company.

At a ceremony in Surabaya, east Java, marking the handing-over, a PT PAL executive said while there had been a delay in the tanker's construction, a second one ordered by Pertamina would be delivered on schedule.

Pertamina is to use the 3,500 dwt tanker to serve its domestic inter-island oil distribution network.

Saudi Arabia pledges $100 million

• HARARE (Opecna) — Saudi Arabia has pledged $100 million to the World Bank's recently established special facility for Sub-Saharan Africa.

According to a World Bank report, this brings to 15 the number of countries which have joined in providing 'specially targeted concessional financing' for economic adjustment, rehabilitation and agricultural development in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The report said four countries — West Germany, Japan, Switzerland and the UK — indicated willingness to provide $400 million for lending operations selected by the facility.

Ten other countries — Austria, Canada, Finland, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden — are contributing $600 million and the World Bank 150 million.

Upturn in oil improves Britain's trade

• LONDON (Opecna) — A substantial upturn in the oil trade was responsible for an improvement in Britain's trade with the rest of the world in April, officials said here last month.

According to official sources, the surplus in oil was $855 million in April, as against 529 million in March.

Officials said this represented a return to normal oil import levels after the massive destocking in March, following the end of the year-long coal miners' strike.

They added that the current account of Britain's balance of payments was in surplus by $154 million, as compared to a $694 million shortfall in March.

Cotton exporters hit by world overproduction

A Sudanese cotton farm: Third World producers fear further economic decline. Until two years ago cotton was the largest export earner in 10 countries including Sudan.

The price of cotton, a vital source of foreign exchange earnings for many developing countries, has been hit by a glut on the world market. Amid demands for production cutbacks, cotton exporters fear a new bout of recession.

By Zephania Ubwani
Compass Features

ARUSHA, Tanzania — Cotton, bloody but unbowed in the long, drawn-out battle against synthetic fibres, faces a new threat from a worldwide glut brought on by overproduction.

Cotton provided the lion's share of world fibre consumption until mass production of man-made fibres undermined it in the 1950s. Stagnation continued into the 1960s, as a 20 per cent growth in the fibre market went almost completely to the synthetics.

But cotton remained the leading textile fiber, accounting for almost half the supply of major fibers. Synthetics constituted about a third, rayon acetate and wool the rest.

This could now change. Cotton producers face an unprecedented problem of overproduction, leading to surplus and lower world prices.

The declining prices, discussed at a recent meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Board in Arusha, are a major blow to Third World exporter countries, which increasingly have relied on cotton as a cash crop to finance imports. But its ramifications for small-scale farmers are particularly distressing.

The bumper production was due to improved cotton yield, expanded acreage, better price incentives and additional facilities for farmers.

ICAB statistics estimated that cotton production in the 1984-85 growing season would reach an all-time high of 77 million bales, compared with 67.6 million bales in 1983-84.

Africa alone was expected to produce some 5.6 million bales, an increase of 350,000, and world consumption was expected to rise by 1.5 million bales.

The harvest has created an imbalance between world cotton production and consumption, creating a massive buildup of stock.

A survey presented to the ICAB predicted surplus stock would amount to 30 million bales of cotton by the end of the season, compared with 24 million bales at the beginning of the season. The surplus is equal to five months' world demand.

An across-the-board good crop has meant countries like China — hitherto an importer — have joined the already massed ranks of the cotton exporters.

The importing countries of Western Europe, Taiwan and Japan are being forced to cut back their inventories because of high interest rates, increases in carrying charges and uncertainty over exchange rates.

The Soviet Union and other socialist countries are unlikely to import much cotton. Instead the USSR, a major producer, plans to export its own surplus to its Comecon partners.

Prices began plummeting in May 1983, when cotton fetched 89 cents a pound, to 62 cents in August 1984.

Third World producers, who fear further economic decline will follow falling commodity prices, are in a quandary. Most believe any cutback in production to stabilize prices should be restricted to major producers where cotton plays no significant role in the economy.

Tanzania, for which cotton is the second largest foreign exchange-earning crop, argued remedial measures should take into account "the production conditions and dependence on cotton by countries whose contribution to that world surplus is insignificant."

Until two years ago, cotton was the largest export earner in 10 countries, Antigua, Benin, Chad, Egypt, Iran, Mali, Paraguay, South Yemen, Sudan and Syria.

It ranked second in 14 others, Afghanistan, Angola, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Turkey, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

In Cameroon, Colombia, Mexico, Montserrat, Senegal and Togo cotton ranked third, while in Honduras, Mozambique, Nigeria and Peru it stood fourth.

Apart from calls for cutbacks, industrialized consumer countries are demanding higher quality imports. In a response to Japan at the Arusha meeting, Sudan said importers should understand cotton is produced by poor countries with scant resources.

While imported inputs like fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides were dearer, the returns from cotton were becoming smaller, the Sudanese delegation said.

It said importers invariably responded to crop expansion programmes by fixing lower prices.

Other complex factors inhibit cotton sales. South Korea, which imports about 1.5 million bales of raw cotton each year, said it would increase its buying quota because its textile industry had partly recovered from recession.

But it said the increase would be subject to the easing of textile import restrictions by the developed countries.

The European Community — a major buyer — said there were positive indications that community members would increase their imports of cotton this year.

Whether increased imports will also stabilize prices in an overflowing market remains to be seen.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said prices could be stabilized by establishing a common fund proposed eight years ago, covering 18 commodities, including cotton.

Out of $330 million so far pledged under the common fund agreement, only about $20 million is likely to go to cotton.

There are renewed fears that cut-throat competition from man-made fibres, whose demand has slipped amid global recession, could also hinder attempts to stabilize prices.

Cola blues and bubbles

—see centerspread

WOMEN

Forging spheres of influence

ILLUSTRATION BY KAREN WATSON

WorldPaper

Featuring fresh perspectives from around the world on matters of global concern.

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New York Office: 274 Madison Avenue, Suite 1305, New York, N.Y. 10016, Tel: (212) 532-4932.

HEAD OFFICE

WorldPaper
44 Kilby Street
Boston, MA 02109, USA
Telephone: (617) 720-0525
Telex: 6817273

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Gathering strength in women's fight

Violence, hunger high on agenda

THE WORLD HAS FOCUSED on women more in the past 10 years than in the previous 100 years. In the first concerted effort at assessing attitudes and actions affecting them, the United Nations mandated a Decade for Women from 1975 to 1985. Governments and societies took stock of the fine features and basic flaws of the ways women were treated.

As the UN Decade draws to a close, consciousness of women's concerns has never been higher. Women in many countries are growing in number and influence. Despite discrimination and deprivation, they are gaining recognition in many fields, and their contributions to national and global development are now widely acknowledged.

Women's gains call for celebration, yet frustration continues to run deep. Equality with men remains uneven, if not illusory, from country to country and from issue to issue.

Either by legislation or through mobilization, women are challenging governments and societies that set back their struggle. The women's decade may be over, but a new feminist era has begun.

By Jane Cottingham
Special to WorldPaper

GENEVA—At a women's refuge here, more than 2,000 women a year call or come for legal, moral or financial support, but especially to escape the violence done to them daily by their husbands, fathers, sons or lovers.

A woman from Kenya, where wife-beating is common, stood open-mouthed in disbelief when she visited the women's refuge. Her remark: "You mean women are beaten by their menfolk here?"

The fact is women everywhere experience violence. Young women are burned in India for failing to bring a big enough dowry to their husbands' families. Girls in some African countries must have their genitals mutilated to pass the rites of adolescence. In many homes around the world, women are beaten or assaulted by their menfolk. On the streets of most large cities, women are raped and sexually abused daily.

A rape is committed every six minutes in the United States; in West Germany, one in five women is beaten, raped or sexually harassed. Four of every 10 crimes in the Third World are reported to be rape.

Violence against women is among many equally compelling problems that have come into unprecedented focus during the United Nations Decade for Women, which officially closes in Nairobi, Kenya, next month. Ten years of trying to get women on the agenda of institutions and governments worldwide have produced substantial changes in perceptions of women's concerns and actions.

Much of the decade has seen women taking matters into their own hands, defining their own needs, pursuing their own projects or getting strength from each other to organize for their rights.

Supported by an international network, women in Southeast Asia, for instance, have banded together to fight sex-tourism and sexual slavery. African women have set up meetings, research and work groups to deal with the problem of female circumcision. Latin America has seen two feminist "encuentros" (meetings) in the last four years, each time drawing 600 women anxious to do something about their lot. Hundreds of thousands of European, South Pacific and North American women have demonstrated, fasted and built encampments in opposition to nuclear arms and militarization.

Many of the issues confronting women are universal in their implications, but a number involve local considerations. "Hunger is one of the major forms of violence against women in developing countries," said Nicole Rolland, a Canadian educator who spent three months working with her counterparts in the barrios of Peru.

The struggle for survival—for enough food, water, housing and sanitation, and against disease—is the lot of many women in the developing world. They are the food providers. "They are the ones who have to scratch around finding food for their children," Rolland said. "They are the ones who go without in order to feed the rest. They are the ones with the burden of keeping everyone alive."

In industrialized countries, women are faced with a different kind of malnutrition. As the family providers, they must choose among the abundance of highly refined, processed food, hormone-fed meat and junk food, which contribute to heart disease, cancer, ulcers, kidney ailment, obesity and tooth decay. Gradually these foods are being transferred to developing countries, where soft drinks and canned baby foods already constitute a multi-billion-dollar market.

The increasing poverty of women in many parts of the world draws them into a circle of vulnerability, powerlessness, physical weakness and isolation. They are forced by circumstances to resort to jobs that reinforce their inferior status and perpetuate indignities against them: prostitution, domestic service, work on a factory assembly line, landless laboring.

Southeast Asia has become the haven of "sex tourism" serving men from Japan, Western Europe, North America and Australia, where "all-in-one" package tours include "erotic pleasures." For the women and young girls, the sex tourists provide a source of income that often supports whole families.

The other side of this coin is the mushrooming business of "warm body export." Shrewd businessmen have seen a market for Asian women in Europe and elsewhere, and have been quick to set up employment agencies supplying prostitutes to nightclubs or hotels, and marriage bureaus providing "nice, docile wives" according to requirements.

Apart from prostitution, work on a factory assembly line is one of the few opportunities open to poor women. In Southeast Asia and Central America, for instance, flourishing light manufacturing industries such as microelectronics and textiles preferentially hire women. Following discriminatory patterns of employment in the West, companies in these industries pay women lower wages than men for the same work, with fewer benefits and less protection.

PHOTO BY ULRIKE WELSCH

Thai garment workers: the option is prostitution

The myth remains that women's earnings are only supplementing the family income provided by male wage-earners. This, despite the fact that a large number of women in the work force of both developing and industrialized countries head their families or support themselves and other family members. In some Caribbean countries, up to 80 percent of households are headed by women.

The microelectronics industry provides a graphic example of the close link between the situations of women in industrialized countries and those in the developing world. Integrated circuits, which are used in computers, calculators, digital watches, electronic games and military systems, are produced on a "global assembly line" stretching from California to Southeast Asia.

In the United States, women make up about 90 percent of the electronics production workers, according to "Women in Development," a Geneva resource publication. And in Southeast Asia, half a million women are employed by the same industry, representing 85 percent of all electronic workers in the region. Women are employed not only because they are cheap labor but also because they are said to be nimble-fingered and, as yet, an unorganized labor force.

The receiving end of this microelectronic production is the sector in industrialized countries that employs a high percentage of women whose jobs are being transformed by rapid computerization. There is already a new sexual division of labor, with the programmers and technicians tending to be men, and data-entry workers mainly women.

In all parts of the world, women's access to education, to employment and to decision-making positions is undoubtedly affected by the fact that they bear children. In a world where money is essential for survival, motherhood does not rate very highly as an income-earner, and women's work of bearing and caring for children is devalued as a result.

Some countries—France and those in Scandinavia and Eastern Europe—have made an effort to ensure adequate child-care facilities. Maternity benefits are slowly increasing in the formal sector, but for the most part remain scant. And since women make a large percentage of the informal sector (street vendors, domestic servants, prostitutes, casual workers), the question of how to care for children remains critical.

In the face of all this, access to cheap, safe methods of contraception is a priority for women everywhere. Even in countries where contraception is widely available, as in New Zealand or the Netherlands, it is not necessarily safe or cheap. The controversy over injectable contraceptives, which are banned in the United States but widely available throughout the developing world, is just one indication of the problem.

The availability of abortion, dependent on government policy that is often influenced by religious forces, is a central women's issue. Illegal abortion remains women's greatest health problem.

Because the causes of women's situation and problems are international, the solutions, or at least an improvement, must also be sought beyond the local or national level. The initiatives taken during the UN Decade for Women will not stop after the Nairobi meeting in July that will review past efforts and plot moves for the future of women.

If there are two facets to the agenda for women's action, I see one depicting the struggles of women to create a meaningful world, better working conditions, health, some economic stability and dignity, and the other showing the nurturing and caring of women, without which this world cannot survive.

Jane Cottingham is a founding member of the women's international information and communications service called ISIS in Geneva, Switzerland.

In the US, a new pattern

First establish a career, then have babies

By Abigail Trafford
Special to WorldPaper

WASHINGTON—"Our failures only marry"—that was the slogan of my all-woman alma mater, Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. The idea was that an educated American woman should "do something" with her brains. Despite that arch slogan, when I graduated in 1962, the main focus of a woman's life still centered on marriage and children.

Like other Americans born between 1940 and 1950, I belonged to a transition generation. I married soon after college and had two children. My private life had priority. Although I worked, it was on a part-time basis. It was not until I was in my early 30's that I plunged into a career.

I was driven in part by biology—my children were old enough to be in school—and in part by economic necessity: my marriage broke up and I had to support myself. My concern at that time was whether I could make up those years when I was out of the full-time work force. What would be the penalties in terms of pension rights, social security benefits and career advancement?

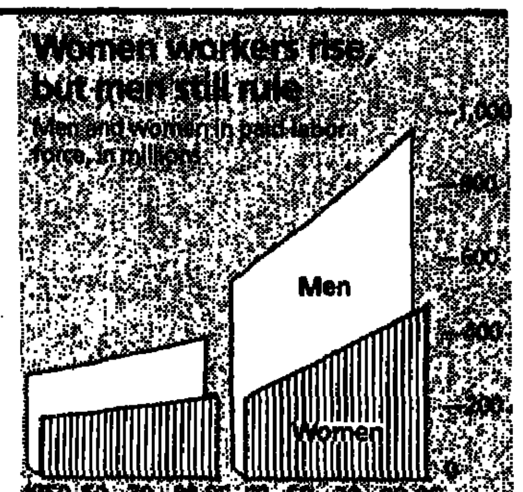
Today, young American women follow a different pattern. They are more likely to get advanced academic degrees and establish their careers before having children. The average age of marriage has increased, and a higher proportion of women are not marrying at all. The birth rate has dropped to an all-time low of less than two children per woman.

The increase in the number of women giving birth to their first child in their late 30's has raised concern about the greater physical risks in childbirth—or whether older women will be able to bear children at all.

"How can I interrupt my career to have children when I am just getting to the point of attaining real power?" they wonder. "Am I missing something by not spending more time with my child—is my child missing something, too?" For all the rhetoric about the blurring of sex roles, women are still expected to shoulder the prime responsibility for running a house and raising children.

This translates into the fundamental struggle for women in the 1980's: how to balance a job with marriage and motherhood. Can a woman hold on to her job, let alone climb the success ladder, if she doesn't work the same hours as men and compete on an equal basis?

The struggle is pervasive because women no longer have a choice of whether or not to work. At a time of very slow economic growth, working is a necessity for most women. The traditional household of a bread-winning father and a stay-at-home mother accounts for only 12 percent of families in the United States. In 60 percent of families, both spouses hold jobs. What's more, roughly 15 percent of American households are headed by women who are the sole support of their families.



Intensifying this struggle is Mother Nature's biological clock, which cuts off the ability to have children at about age 40. The child-bearing and rearing years coincide with that critical period on the job when young people lay the foundation for their careers and build up seniority in an organization.

For a while the United States was

(Continued on next page)

Japan's slowly changing roles

From sacrifice to self-fulfillment

By Yoshiko Sakurai
Associate Editor in Northeast Asia

TOKYO—Japan is a country of male supremacy. This "male mystique," however, may eventually fade away because of the steady change in social consciousness, particularly among women.

We women already make up 40 percent of the total work force in Japan. In 1984, there were more married women working outside than staying at home. It is clear Japan has entered the era of working women, breaking the tradition that women must quit work upon marriage and stay at home.

In reality, however, women have not achieved full social participation. Many of them are part-time workers and even the full-time employees often hold only clerical positions. In many cases, the primary reason for working is to help the family finances, rather than to pursue an individual career.

Still, there are factors indicating that Japanese women will keep aspiring for careers more and more in the future. Foremost of these is the need for money. Life in Japan has become too expensive for a single income to support comfortably. Supplementary income by a wife becomes necessary to meet the high cost of housing and education, for instance.

Another factor is the increasing amount of free time that Japanese women enjoy because of a life-style enhanced by electronic amenities as well as a much reduced number of children. The Ministry of Welfare reports that before World War II, women had five children on average over a period of 15 years, compared with 2.2 children over 5.4 years after 1965.

This, combined with a lengthened life expectancy, gives the Japanese woman today more than 20 years to live after her last child has married.

A shifting balancing act

PHOTO BY MARIE-LAURE DE DECKER/GAMMA

An essay contest held in Tokyo last year and sponsored by Kintetsu, a leading department store, tells a lot about Japanese women today. The theme of the contest: the beautiful way of life for women.

A common thread among the entries underscored the special energy and strong desire of women to participate in society. Their message is that they can forge ahead toward "a beautiful way of life" by taking action, bouncing back when faced with setbacks, and seeking a higher goal.

For the women of the prewar generation, social involvement took the form of abandoning the old life-style and serving the community in order to make their life "more worthwhile." The ambition of the postwar generation was much more straightforward and oriented toward self-success.

The female judges in the essay contest, including myself, selected a 64-year-old

woman as the top prize winner. She was a widow who lost her husband in World War II. Despite the difficult times after the war, she managed to raise and educate two daughters.

Today, she makes a living by teaching English to junior high school students and "ikebana"(flower arrangement) to neighborhood women. In her free time, she takes up volunteer work—preparing lunch for senior citizens in her community and typing books in braille for the blind.

"I am a merry widow," she wrote. "I hope to keep my days full of appointments for many years to come."

Before judging the essays, I had thought that the reason Japanese women were not as well established in society as their foreign counterparts was their lack of willingness and determination. I was wrong.

What Japanese women need now is not guts—they already have enough—but a direction and an outlet for their energy and talents. But Japanese society, still largely bound to traditional values on women's role, may not be of great help to them at this stage.

For example, the all-male board of the Kintetsu department store came up with a totally different choice of the essay contest winner. The men recommended a 50-year-old woman who had sacrificed herself for the husband.

In her essay, this woman said: "The beautiful life for me is to support my husband until his dream comes true."

Although her spirit of self-sacrifice is indeed beautiful, all of us female judges felt that she could have led another, possibly more constructive life by asking her husband to share the burdens. On our part, it was amusing that the male board members recommended this woman of self-sacrifice for the top prize.

Yoshiko Sakurai is co-anchor of the leading TV newscast in Japan.

Career, babies

(Continued from preceding page)

caught up with the myth of Superwoman—the dressed-for-success tycoon lady, driving car pools of happy children and whipping up gourmet dinners for her perfectly matched tycoon man. In reality, many women found themselves in dead-end, underpaid jobs while they agonized over child-care arrangements and sorted laundry at night.

For women who put off marriage to establish a career—and the swelling ranks of divorced women—there emerges another basic concern: where can I find a potential marriage partner? With higher male death rates and the demographic explosion of births in the United States between 1946 and 1964 that created a large pool of younger women in the Baby Boom, women over age 35 find fewer available men as they grow older.

As a result, the single woman—the elderly widow, the divorced homemaker, the female head of a family, the unmarried mother—is taking a larger niche on the social landscape. The number of single-parent families has doubled since 1970, and now represent one-fourth of all households with children.

For many, singlehood is increasingly linked with poverty. About 40 percent of white women who head a household alone are below the poverty line. Among blacks, it's much worse—60 percent.

Meanwhile, in the workplace, women have found that while many doors have been opened for them, roadblocks still exist as they strive for top echelons of political and economic power. In the US Congress, for example, less than five percent of the 535 members are female. Women account for more than 70 percent of American teachers, yet less than two percent of school district superintendents are female.

With the clustering of women in what are traditionally thought of as women's jobs—nursing, clerical work and elementary school teaching—the wage gap in lifetime earnings between men and women has remained constant for 30 years, with women earning 63 cents for every dollar that men make.

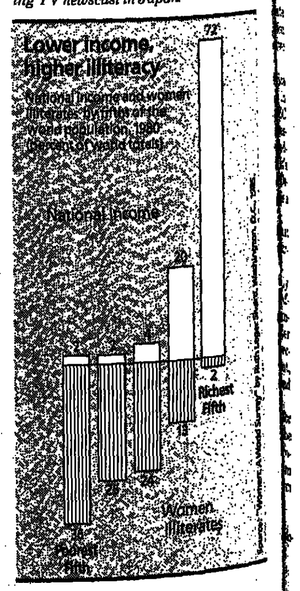
All this has fueled a political awakening among women, regardless of party or marital status. Pressure is building on local governments as well as in Congress for programs that encourage the hiring and promotion of women. Many private companies are changing policies governing maternity leave and pension earnings to take into account women's child-bearing role. The fastest-growing group of working mothers are those with infants and a consensus is developing among employers as well as parents on the need for high-quality day-care programs for children.

Despite new burdens placed on women, a quiet optimism seems to be emerging. Studies at the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women in Massachusetts document a dramatic decline in the incidence of depression in women aged 35 to 55. Dire predictions that if women went to work like men they would increase their risk of heart attack and shortened lifespans have not materialized. A recent nationwide telephone survey of 680 couples suggests that marriages are becoming more equitable, with both spouses sharing household duties as well as working.

It is beginning to dawn on both sexes that the revolution that has changed the role of women has opened up choices for men, too, ultimately strengthening the whole texture of American society.

Both men and women have their cycles, giving priority at different times to their personal or professional lives. The transition can make life temporarily difficult, but it is always possible to make up for lost time. As I like to advise my own daughters, "You can have it all, but not all at the same time."

Abigail Trafford, an assistant managing editor at U.S. News & World Report, is the author of "Crazy Times: Surviving Divorce."



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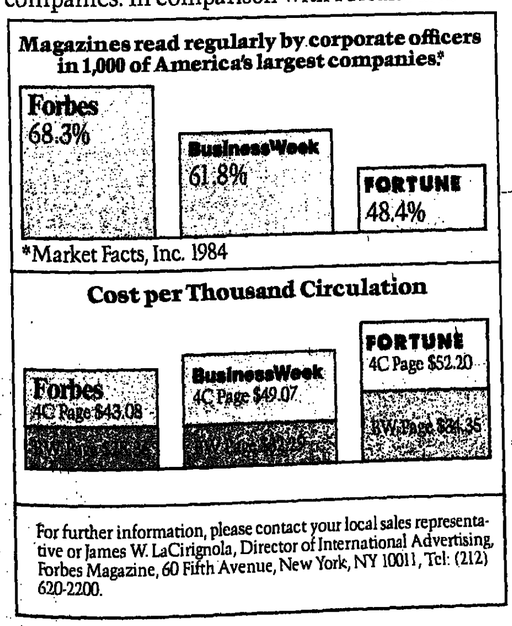

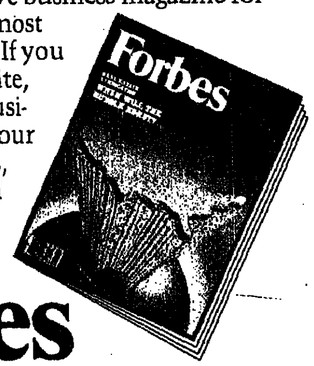

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Challenging a taboo

Going to jail for politics, sex and religion

By Nawal El Saadawi
Special to WorldPaper

CAIRO—Night was longer than day in the women's prison near Cairo. But the face of day was more ugly. The darkness of night at least concealed the cracks in the blackened walls, the garbage piled in the corners and bloodstains on the mattresses, walls and bar gratings.

Such scenes are vivid to me because I stayed there for a time. On orders of Egypt's then-president Anwar Sadat, I was arrested and put in the women's prison on September 6, 1981, exactly one month before he was assassinated. I became one of the more than 1,500 political prisoners held on the all-encompassing charge of "creating chaos."

Like many other women prisoners in Arab and other Third World countries, I spoke openly about three subjects that are taboo for women: politics, sex and religion. Now, as then, I believe I cannot talk about the problems of women without touching on these taboos.

My crime was that I wrote articles for an opposition newspaper, making the link between economics and politics and women's rights. As an independent writer, I expressed my own thoughts, not Sadat's.

At the women's prison, I found myself with 11 other inmates in one cell. Some of my cellmates were members of political parties, others of fanatical Islamic groups. I belonged to no party or group.

Although all of us were political prisoners, our views were radically different. The women from the extremist groups usually sat on the ground all day reading the Koran or praying. These were the fundamentalists who were firmly against the ideas I espouse—such as changing the Islamic family law because it discriminates against women.

One of these fundamentalist women, Bedour, practically did not stop reading the Koran except when she ate or entered the lavatory. Inside the lavatory, water dripped from above, sewage overflowed onto the floor and large cockroaches leaped here and there.

Now and then, we would see Bedour jumping out of the lavatory and yelling "Cockroach!" That would be our signal to come to her rescue, each of us wielding a shoe or a slipper, ready to strike the cockroaches down.

One day, Bedour was screaming again. We immediately assumed that a cockroach had attacked her, so we took our slippers and ran toward her. Instead, we saw a man. Bedour was not wearing her veil and the idea that a man might see her face bare terrified her. She leaped from the enclosure to the prison barracks in one stride.

After that, whenever we heard Bedour's screams, we would pause before removing our slippers to ask, "Cockroach or man?"

In the prostitutes' barracks facing ours, it was an altogether different scene. When a man approached, the inmates would run out of the barracks, uncovering their hair, mischievously winking and laughing.

In this prison, a man—any man, even an elderly convict who had come to collect the garbage—became a figure of consequence, one who would create a major commotion among both the veiled women and the prostitutes. The men always came, smiling and cocky in their newfound importance, apparently aware of the tremors their passage caused among the women inmates.

PHOTO BY RANDY GOODMAN

Different views, same predicament

The different women I found in prison amused and amazed me. But the one who caught my attention was the woman jailer, named Nabawia. She had small eyes and inflamed eyelids stripped of eyelashes. Yet her eyes held an unusual power of observation, and her nose was particularly sensitive. The black hair emerging from her nostrils trembled like the whiskers of a cat whenever she drew near the spot where we had buried forbidden belongings.

Such articles ranged from pen and paper to small transistor radios that we buried together in a hole in the ground. At closing time, after Nabawia had locked the barracks doors on us, we would take newspapers out of the hiding place. We would read them by turns and then burn them in the toilet before Nabawia unlocked the doors the following morning.

As she entered, she would sniff out the burned paper, glancing at the charcoal-like slivers, blackened like soot and floating in sewer water. Her eyes would meet ours, but she would say nothing.

The matter was no secret, for nothing among women in prison ever really is.

Two months after President Sadat's assassination, I was released from prison. It had been a difficult period for me in a country that is regarded as avant-garde in the Arab world when it comes to freedom. But for women in other countries like Iran, Iraq and Syria, the situation is far worse.

Nawal El Saadawi, a doctor of psychiatry, novelist and feminist writer, has published 22 books, including "The Hidden Face of Eve."

Playing world politics, the female way

By Jacqueline Grapin
Associate Editor for Western Europe

GENEVA—What if women had a foreign policy? "We would have a policy made by idiots," a conservative US columnist says. Fortunately, this columnist is not the most authoritative source when it comes to both foreign policies and women's issues.

It would be hard to argue that the foreign policies conducted by Golda Meir, Indira Gandhi and Margaret Thatcher have been worse, in terms of their own countries' national interest, than those that would have been conducted had men been in their place at the time. If one must criticize their actions, it would be—and most men would probably agree on this—to stress how similar to men they behaved: studying the issues, calculating their steps and weighing in the tradeoffs required.

The three of them have been at war—in the Middle East, in Pakistan and in the South Atlantic—and they have won. By doing so, they have at least shown that they can conquer and exert power at the highest levels in a way not very different from their fellow masculine ministers. But this is just a start.

Once the presence of women in high office becomes widely accepted, a next phase might come, when women, realizing the extension of their political power, will start thinking in their own terms about the standard political issues. They may then come to conclusions different from men's and start to influence the issues in new ways other than just copying men's behavior.

The time when this will happen may not be as far away as it seems. The question is not to have all major posts taken by women, but to arrive at a better representation of women's opinions, letting them formulate, articulate and act on them.

It is important to point out that in several countries women's organizations tend to move away from so-called "feminine issues" like abortion. Instead, they deal increasingly with questions raised by economic circumstances and political tensions. They also tend to multiply their associations, with a growing number of professional clubs emerging from career women's initiatives. These networks will obviously become more and more powerful as time passes.

The woman who headed the Ministry of Justice in Zimbabwe when Robert Mugabe was elected, used to explain in her own way why the revolutionary leader had been elected against all expectations in 1980. "No Western journalist would interview an African woman on political issues," she said, "and it was on the basis of their reporting that most electoral forecasts were made. A single look at the pictures of voting desks on election day would let you know that there were more women voting than men in this country. It is a demographic reality. And if you add to it the fact that women were really fed up with what was going on, you would see that they had really become a revolutionary element."

The kind of revolution women are promoting, sometimes without realizing it, is not at all the kind of revolution Marxist ideologues anticipate. If women grab hold of their economic and educational power, the outcome is going to be a huge mutation in human societies. And if by any chance they build their own international network, the result will probably be an acceleration of the process of internationalization of many of the aspects of our societies, something that is already under way.

Most governments now admit that they are starting to be overcome by the international system, which goes beyond the superpowers. Multinationals, banks, international organizations and associations, capitalist networks as well as socialist fellow societies—like those of scientists—are all overpowering the nationalists, whoever they are, because they move across the barriers.

There are many reasons to think that women would easily join these uprising powers, helping to bury this narrow view of history which has been promoted in the last two centuries and to which the conservative US columnist was probably referring when he thought of idiots.

It is better to ignore silly things, and this should be the case for nationalism.

Jacqueline Grapin, a columnist for the French daily "Le Monde," is the president of Interavia USA, a publishing group.

'I was sold by my father'

And he could do it again

(Editor's note: The sex tourism industry is a blatant form of exploitation of women in the Third World. Its glaring examples are found in the Philippines, South Korea and Thailand. In Thailand alone, about 500,000 women, or 10 percent of the female population between the ages of 14 and 24, work as masseuses or prostitutes. Dada—not her real name—is a young Thai woman who was forced into the sex trade at the age of 14. This is her story, as told to a WorldPaper correspondent in Bangkok.)

Special to WorldPaper

PHOTO BY AP/WIDE WORLD

The curse of being pretty

BANGKOK—In my mountain village in northern Thailand, I am told that I am one of the prettiest girls in our tribe. Unfortunately, my beauty has done me more harm than good.

One day, while I was playing with the other children in the neighborhood, the village headman came to visit my parents. They had a brief conversation and I was told later that I would be leaving soon to work in the southern part of the country. My poor parents received 6,000 baht (US$220) for me.

When I left my village to work in a southern city, a new world opened for me. Against my will, I was made to entertain men at the place where I worked. In the first few weeks, I became one of the highly paid "workers." But, as time went by, my price gradually came down.

After about three months, I was allowed to visit my parents. On the bus taking me to my village, I met two people whom I had known before. They offered me a regular job in the northern province of Lampang, near my village, and I immediately accepted. I stayed home overnight and the next day went with them on the bus trip to Lampang.

My days as a prostitute were over, or so I thought.

On the bus, I fell asleep and later found myself in Bangkok, the capital. Before I realized what had happened, I was taken to a brothel in a coastal province near the capital.

Anyone of the girls like me who refused to become a prostitute was assaulted. The more one resisted, the more she was beaten. But I was treated better than the other girls in the brothel because the customers said they liked the way I looked.

Because I was in demand, I was sold many times to pimps in the other provinces. When I was finally sent back to Bangkok, I worked in at least 10 brothels and bars. In some brothels, I would entertain 15 to 20 guests a night.

All this time, I longed to return home and I cried whenever I saw a bus that could take me back to my village. I wanted to see my parents, but I could not get away from it all. My "owner" promised that I would be allowed to return home only if I earned 40,000 baht ($1,280) for him.

The last place where I worked was a Japanese bar in Patpong, the famous "red light" district of Bangkok. The bar owner "bought" me for 2,000 baht ($75) and I was paid 20 baht (75 cents) for services to each customer.

Again, there were promises that I would be allowed to return home, but they were never kept. I became very upset one day when they refused to let me go in time for the celebration of Songkran—the traditional Thai new year symbolizing the start of a new life.

I looked forward to a new life myself, so I decided to escape. With the help of some musicians who called the police for assistance, I was reunited with my parents.

Today, my future remains uncertain. Poverty in my village has made prostitutes out of many girls like me. My mother says I will become a prostitute again and I fear my opium-addicted father will sell me once more if someone offers him money.

Laws just aren't enough

By Sirin Tekeli
Special to WorldPaper

ANKARA, Turkey—Back in 1934, women in so-called advanced countries like France and Switzerland did not have the right to vote. But in that historic year, women in Turkey were granted full political rights. A total of 18 women were elected to parliament within a year.

At that time, it was the largest participation of women in a national political body in the world, except Finland.

The progressive changes favoring women in Turkey were not a response to any active feminist demand. They were legal changes, part of an effort begun 11 years earlier to modernize the newly born republic of Turkey.

Today, however, Turkish women have more rights in law than in life. Despite the legalization of women's rights, there has been no real improvement in their position in society.

This unusual turn of events illustrates how ineffective legal change can be if it is not accompanied by corresponding changes in attitudes toward women.

Women's oppression in Turkey extends back many centuries. Under the Ottoman Empire that began in the late 13th century, laws governing women were based on Islamic law, the state ideology. From birth, women were bound to the confines of the family.

With the advent of the republic in 1923, progressive-minded authorities managed to enact the most radical reforms in women's rights ever proposed in a Muslim Mediterranean society. Especially during the rule of the one-party regime (1924-34), a concept called "state feminism" was initiated and flawlessly pursued.

In 1924, women were granted equal rights to education at all levels. By 1926, the nation was introduced to contemporary civil law. Women, from a judicial point of view, became almost equal to men. The following year, Turkey's Islamic society abandoned, with widespread approval, the religious tradition of using the "carsaf," a large veil for women.

Still, the legal changes have amounted little to women. Their economic situation has deteriorated—in sharp contrast to the steady growth of the national economy.

In fact, in the last 50 years, Turkish women have steadily lost political power. Between 1960 and 1980, their representation in parliament dropped to less than two percent of its membership. On the national scale, the proportion of economically active women has also declined.

Most Turkish women work in the agricultural sector, with more than 90 percent of them "employed" as unpaid family help. Between 1955 and 1980, the overall rate of female participation in the labor force dropped from 43 percent to 34 percent. This was the result of constant migration of families from rural to urban settings where, women are forced to remain only as housewives. Under current laws, a woman must obtain her husband's permission to work outside the home.

At the same time, schools, radio, TV and traditional home training indoctrinate people with the idea that a woman's main duty is to be a wife and mother. Thus, many women are dissuaded from trying to venture into the working world outside.

It appears that many of today's city-born, well-educated, professional women who are in their 30's give priority to their work over their marriage. They have only contempt for the traditional roles reserved for them in society.

But the "revolution" launched for Turkish women half a century ago remains insincere and incomplete.

Dr. Sirin Tekeli, a former member of the Istanbul University faculty, is a free-lance writer and researcher.

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Of burps and bubbles:

THE BIG BURP that's heard around the world comes from Coca-Cola Co. in Atlanta, Georgia, sounding a call for a reformulated Coke. It's a signal for a new "cola war" with archrival Pepsi-Cola Co. of Purchase, New York, which sees Coke's change as Pepsi's gain.

Few American products provoke as much competition or inspire as much imagery as Coke does. A universally consumed soft drink, Coke is many things to many people in many countries.

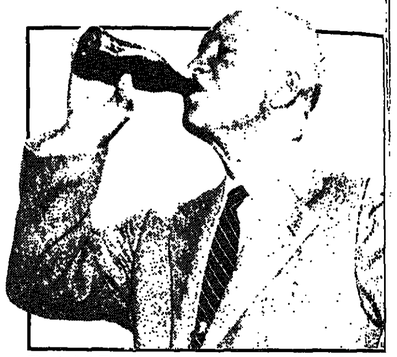
In different parts of the world, Coke symbolizes American corporate success and the triumph of marketing over the masses. It shows what a company can do for the world and what the world can do for its business.

Coke is a harbinger of foreign investment that capital-short countries need. At the same time, it is a forerunner of what nationalists once called "coca-colonization"—a reference to US economic hold on developing countries or its dominance over Europe that French editor J.J. Servan-Schreiber warned about in his 1968 book, "The American Challenge."

In most countries, Cokes often comes with a foretaste of political acceptance, but in others it leaves with some aftertaste of corporate arrogance.

It is a measure of world standing for some countries that they play host to a durable American institution providing investment and employment. But for others, it is a matter of national interest that they confront corporate muscle-flexing, as in the case of India, from which Coca-Cola withdrew in 1977 rather than submit to government demands that would have jeopardized its secret Coke formula.

Enduring images come from the tall, slim bottle in which Coke was sold in the 1950's and 1960's. In parts of Asia, it was the shape that launched a thousand thoughts. Men spoke of women endowed with a "Coca-Cola figure."

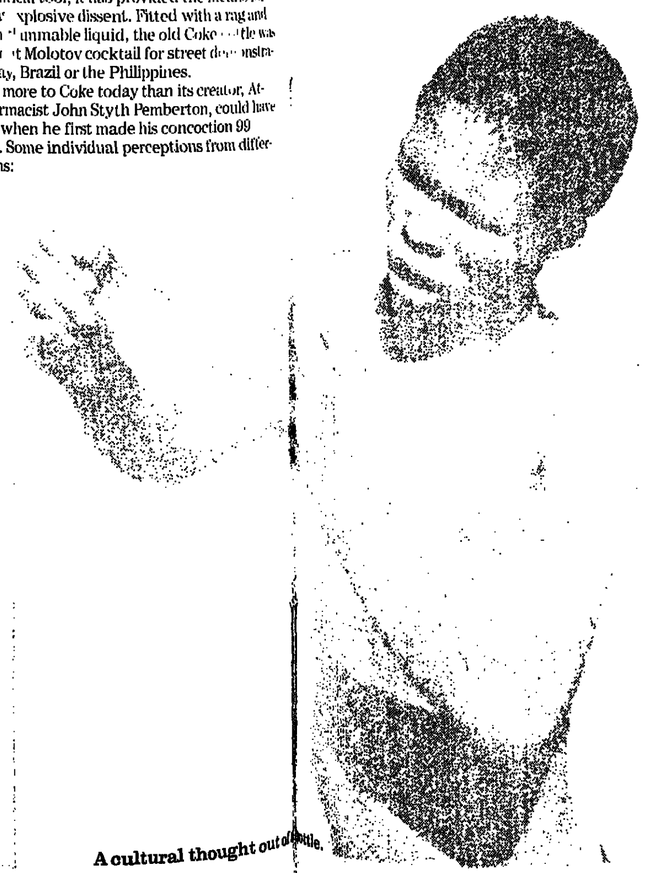


Dwight D. Eisenhower: presidential sip.

As a social prop, Coke has a lot of cultural bubble. In the United States, for instance, it is prescribed to calm upset stomachs, or is thought to remove grease and encrusted bugs from car windshields. It enlivens gatherings, if it is mixed with rum or bourbon, as in Latin America.

As a political tool, it has provided the means for expressing explosive dissent. Fitted with a rag and filled with flammable liquid, the old Coke bottle was a convenient Molotov cocktail for street demonstrations in, say, Brazil or the Philippines.

There's more to Coke today than its creator, Atlanta pharmacist John Styth Pemberton, could have imagined when he first made his concoction 99 years ago. Some individual perceptions from different regions:

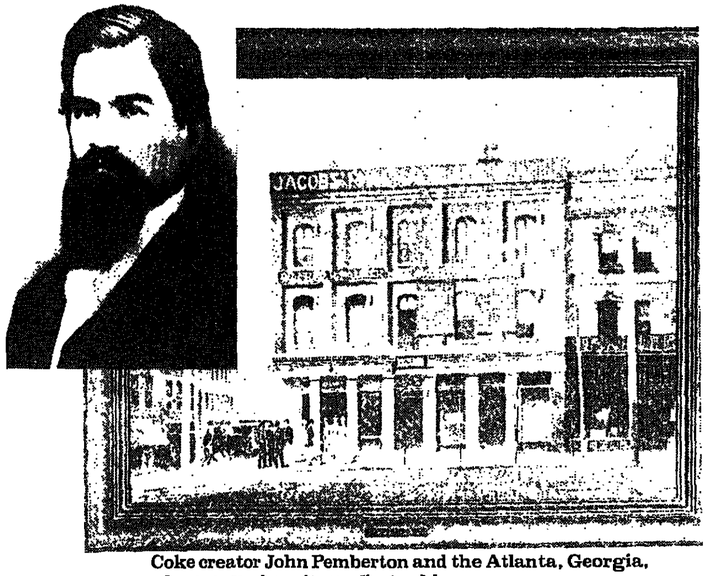


A cultural thought out of a bottle.

"I belong to the Coca-Cola generation," says Hamlet Pauletti, Brazilian senior editor of WorldPaper. "My first memory of Coca-Cola came from the old, yellowing ads in my father's collection of the Portuguese editions of Reader's Digest. Thin, long-legged women with straw baskets frolicking on the beach or on a boat beckoned me to join the world in buying this most international of soft drinks. I did.

"Years later, in my teens, it was time for 'Cuba libre' or free Cuba—the drink, not the Cuban revolution. It was one-part rum and four-parts Coca-Cola, with ice. It was the drink de rigeur at dance parties tapping to the music of Ray Conniff and his orchestra. Looking back, I find it hard to remember which one was worse: the drink or the music.

"In a development that pleased revolutionaries but perplexed marketing experts, the sturdy Coca-Cola bottle became the ideal Molotov cocktail in demonstrations in the 1960's and 1970's. When the roar of revolution subsided, it was time for another generation—Pepsi's.



Coke creator John Pemberton and the Atlanta, Georgia, pharmacy where it was first sold.

Hilary Ng'weno, a leading African editor and WorldPaper associate editor in sub-Saharan Africa, reports: "Few Kenyans know that Coke is an American product. Most of the Coca-Cola advertisements on radio, television and on cinema screens (Coke is rarely advertised in the print media) emphasize Coke's international and modernist, rather than American, image. This is not to say that the low profile has been bad for business.

"One of Coca-Cola's embarrassments in Kenya is the growing fund of blocked profits which Kenyan foreign exchange regulations do not permit Coca-Cola to expatriate in one lump sum. Recently, Coca-Cola used more than a million US dollars' worth of Kenyan shilling to finance some local costs of the movie, 'Sheena—Queen of the Jungle,' which was shot in Kenya.

"It was a terrible film and probably will not make money for its producers for some time. But if it does, Coca-Cola will have found a legitimate way of getting one million dollars out of the country. Characteristically, few Kenyans will know about this achievement if it comes about, for Coca-Cola's name is not shown as a major item on Sheena's credit."

Looking at the US scene, WorldPaper assistant editor Paul Keegan says: "Americans have been getting high on Coca-Cola since the early days of the drink. Small amounts of cocaine were then part of the 'secret' formula that advertisements promised would put some zip into your life.

"There are worse addictions, of course. Coca-Cola is cheap, legal, readily available and socially acceptable. But any fifth grader who has watched its secret formula wear down a healthy set of teeth in a beaker during science class knows there's some nasty stuff in it, and one can only wonder what other parts of one's system are being similarly dismantled."

Conquering taste buds

A massive invasion of taste buds is under way. After testing the reactions of 200,000 drinkers, Coca-Cola Co. has launched a year-long campaign to let the world savor its "new" Coke.

By May of next year, the "old" Coke—whose 99-year-old formula has been shelved—may have sufficiently seeped down into history. But it will not be entirely forgotten. Its popular theme song of the 1970's, "I'd Like to Buy the World a Coke," will linger on, long enough perhaps for the world to start buying the new Coke.

Coke is consumed in 155 countries from Algeria to Zambia—almost as many as there are members of the United Nations. Every minute of day and night around the world, about 195,000 bottles or cans of the 6.5-ounce serving are sold. This works out to about 280 million a day.

With worldwide operations involving 40,000 people—the strength of the army in a number of countries—Coca-Cola generates an annual business estimated at US$7.3 billion. That's about the total value of domestic goods and services produced in one year by, say, Bahrain or Bolivia.

If the company goes by its 1936 jingle, introducing the new Coke is "the refreshing thing to do." And if its 1963 slogan holds true, things can go better with Coke.

Coca-colonization?

The blind see a new way

Rehabilitation linked to jobs in Third World

By Frank Campbell
Special to WorldPaper

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua—Aubrey Webson became blind at the age of six. Now the 30-year-old executive director of the Caribbean Council for the Blind intends to prove that, for the world's 42 million blind people, physical darkness need not necessarily mean poverty, dependence and despair.

The Antigua-based council is creating job opportunities for many of the 135,000 blind people in its 22 member-countries by providing them with training, equipment and other forms of support.

"Ours is the freshest idea in rehabilitation of the blind," Webson says. His view is shared by Lawrence Campbell, director of education and rehabilitation of Helen Keller International, a New York-based organization working with the blind. Campbell says of Webson's undertaking: "This is the first rehabilitation program linked to income opportunities in the Third World."

Webson explains the concept behind the Caribbean council's work: "If a blind fellow, instead of receiving US$17.50 a month in social assistance, can work for even $68.00 a month, he can enjoy a better standard of living. Moreover, he will be producing something useful and there will be more money for the national economy."

Once the program gets fully under way, rehabilitation of the blind will mean more than teaching them to walk without bumping into walls, dress without help or light a fire.

The first phase of the program—a social and economic survey—has revealed, according to Webson, "a number of entrepreneurial opportunities, a number of gaps in the economies of all countries, that blind people can concentrate on." The survey team identified possible projects, ranging from the cultivation of ornamental plants in the Dutch island of Aruba to a sub-contract for the production of crates for a brewery in Guyana.

"Sighted" rehabilitation officers work under national coordinators to tap the resources of the blind and identify the projects suitable for them. The program covers three types of job opportunities: open-market employment, sheltered employment and self-employment, including a cottage industry, small-scale individual employment opportunities or small-scale group projects.

The scheme departs radically from the sheltered workshops traditionally run by societies for the blind in the Caribbean countries. These workshops are not intended to be, nor are they run, as profit-making enterprises, Webson says, and they do little more than teach the blind to make baskets and give them a "small contribution."

"The payment is appalling, terrible," says a former workshop participant. "Nobody can live off it. The result is that most blind people end up living off charity."

The Caribbean council is beginning to change all that. A number of projects involving the blind, and sometimes their families, have succeeded especially in agriculture and retail trade. In Barbados, a large poultry farm was established by a blind person. A crop farm project was launched in Antigua by Arnold Edwards, an agriculturist before he lost his eyesight, with the help of his district extension officer.

"What often happens," Webson explains, "is that people have skills before they become blind, and now they

Empowering the blind

have to devise things. For example, to enable them to manage even without their eyesight, they run a twine along the crop beds or do other things to mark the different crops they plant."

In Edwards' case, he started getting financial support for his project through the Caribbean council in 1983 even though its employment scheme was still on the drawing boards.

"Our program is business-oriented and we will be looking to banks in each country to support it," Webson says. "It must be economically viable, or we would, as a rule, not be getting into it."

A number of international organizations are helping the council in the planning, implementation and financing of its unique program. Helen Keller International provided $40,000 for the socio-economic survey, while the Canadian International Development Agency (through the Canadian National Institute for the Blind) supported the training of rehabilitation officers. The Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind in Britain and the British Development Division are among other international agencies likely to lend support.

The Caribbean experiment provides lessons in rehabilitation of the blind on an international scale. John H. Costello, Helen Keller International's executive director, says: "What will be learned from this program will have enormous implications for rehabilitation programs throughout the region and elsewhere in the developing world."

Frank Campbell is a Guyanese journalist who writes regularly on Caribbean and international topics.

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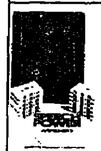

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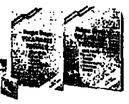

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A breach in the Berlin Wall

Growing trade unites two Germanys

By Wolf-Christian Frey
Special to WorldPaper

HAMBURG—The Berlin Wall has been breached.

Hard-core political dissenters cross it to reach the West, their passage paid for with solid West German currency. East German pop stars make regular visits to the other side. Retired people travel frequently between East and West Berlin. And those living in the shadow of the wall on either side enjoy freedom of movement, provided they don't spend the night across the border.

These are just a few of the openings that have narrowed the division of the two Germanys since 1961, when the fortified wall was erected to halt the flight of East Germans. Some of the openings resulted from political negotiations, but bilateral economic ties increasingly have played a more important role in bringing the two German states closer together.

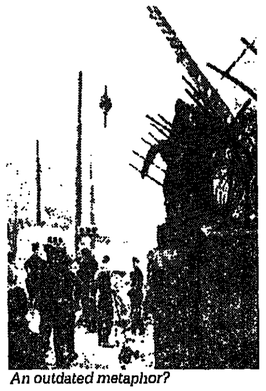
Co-existence between East and West Germany is such that the Berlin Wall today does not seem to be the appropriate symbol anymore of intra-German relations. More suitable symbols perhaps are to be found in the international industry and trade fairs held periodically in Hanover, West Germany, and Leipzig, East Germany.

At the current Hanover Fair, 25 collective production units and 14 foreign trade operations represent the industrial potential of East Germany, officially the German Democratic Republic (GDR). They concentrate on heavy machinery equipment, capital goods and electro-technical products. In 1985, GDR's Minister for Economic Affairs Gunter Mittag says, East Germany will display its products and services at no less than 50 West German trade fairs.

Trade along what is now known as the "inner German border" has increased significantly. In two decades from 1962 to 1983, bilateral German trade rose tenfold and last year reached US$5.3 billion. Today, West Berlin's energy needs are almost completely supplied by East Germany.

West Germany is the GDR's second-largest trading partner, just behind the Soviet Union. This means that West Germany is also the East Germans' most important supplier of hard currency. However, trade with East Germany accounts for eight percent of West Germany's total foreign trade, ranking the GDR as 15th among the trading partners, next to Norway and just ahead of Spain.

Having achieved a trade balance with West Germany, economic planners in East Germany now aim to extend its economic ties to other Western countries. One such expansion move came at the recent talks held in Rome between East German Chairman Erich Honecker and Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi. The East Germans are also seeking to increase trade with Austria, France, Japan and the United States.



An outdated metaphor?

But it is clear that the inner-German trade will keep its special place in East German policy. The 1972 Treaty on the Basis of Relations and supplementary agreements provide the basis for the political and economic relations between the two German nations. After a tough period of the cold war, they declared their intention to solve practical and humanitarian problems in an effort to expand economic cooperation.

Because of their special relations, East and West Germany established permanent missions rather than embassies in their respective seats of government, Bonn and East Berlin.

Critics say, however, that the procedural rules resulting from the agreements have created bureaucratic hurdles. For instance, all merchandise involved in intra-German trade need special permission under a tightly controlled quota system.

West Germany's political and military partners approve all goods passing from one Germany to the other to ensure that no merchandise of military significance is involved. But this procedure covers only merchandise of German origin and poses no great obstacle to successful trading. Intra-German trade is duty-free because it is not regarded as foreign trade.

Assessing East-West trade relations, Mittag, the East German minister, says: "The decisive point is that we negotiate here to our mutual benefit, quietly and relaxed, and simply do business. I think this will be favorable for both sides."

Either abroad or internally, though cooperation between the two Germanys calls for a continuous consulting process that can only grow out of sufficient mutual understanding. East Germany has always been the Eastern bloc's "model pupil," and it may be this self-assurance and confidence that gives East Germany the necessary freedom to communicate and trade with the West.

Next to a military balance on a hopefully reduced level, the current arrangement could turn out to be the only token for preserving peace between East and West—a view shared not only in West Germany but throughout Western Europe.

Wolf-Christian Frey, an attorney, writes from Hamburg, West Germany.

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Song does what it can

'We Are the World' inspires famine relief

Christmastime, 1984. Singer Harry Belafonte is watching television in his Manhattan apartment. On the screen, surrounded by thousands of malnourished Ethiopians, a doctor is caring for a starving child. The BBC interviewer approaches the doctor and asks how he can confront such a vast throng of starving people with such meager resources. The doctor replies, "I do what I can."

By Mark Gerzon
Associate Editor at Large

NEW YORK—With that scene well-etched in his mind, Harry Belafonte—whose careers as singer and human rights activist have spanned three decades—decided to do what *he* could.

He recognizes that what prevents people from taking action is their feeling that the problem is too vast. "They ask themselves: 'How will what I do make a difference?' And so they do nothing. We had to find a way to change that," he told WorldPaper in an interview.

As we sat in the offices of the African-American Institute, across from the United Nations headquarters in New York, Belafonte continued: "If I see eight kids drowning in a river, and I can save only two, what should I do? Of course I should save the two. That's what the doctor was saying: each of us must do as much as possible."

What Belafonte did was to set in motion a series of extraordinary events that would reverberate around the world. Initial efforts culminated in an unprecedented gathering of 45 multimillionaire singers—many of America's hottest artists.

For free, they assembled one day in January at A & M's recording studios in Los Angeles and harmonized

Belafonte: the gift of giving

all nightlong to produce a supersong, "We Are the World." Lionel Richie, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder and record producer Quincy Jones had worked out the song.

It was their unique way of generating funds to relieve famine in Ethiopia and other parts of Africa. To manage the funds that would be raised, a non-profit organization called USA for Africa was formed.

Seven weeks later, "We Are the World" hit the airwaves and record stores. It sold more copies in the first week than any other single in American music history. In April, the album, including several new songs by Canadian and American artists, came out and sold [illegible] million copies in two days.

As the hit song generated waves of consciousness around the world, radio stations in 25 countries dropped their usual programming one day in April for a simultaneous broadcast of "We Are the World." Muzak, the background music system that is piped into offices, elevators, shops and factories, broke precedent and played the song.

Julio Iglesias, Jose Feliciano and other Latin American vocalists recorded a Latin version of the song. [illegible] pel and reggae performers, as well as students from [illegible] over, made their own contributions. Canadian, Scandinavian and German recording artists also launched similar projects.

At last count, USA for Africa had earned US$40 million from the "We Are the World" single, album, [illegible] and related memorabilia.

The global response was heartwarming. Belafonte, without whose initiative the historic recording session would not have taken place, himself was inspired by previous efforts.

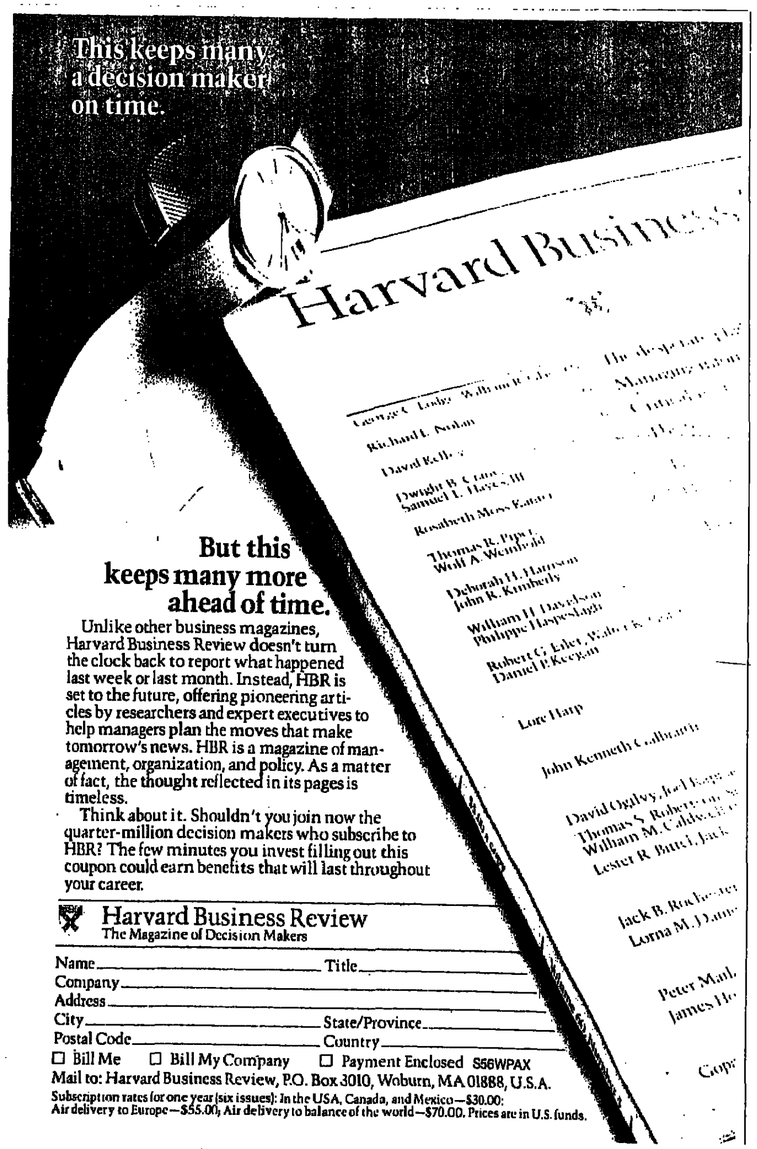
The first was the BBC lead report on famine in Africa that became a dramatic production of NBC News, New York. The other effort, partly inspired by that news coverage, was the precedent-setting recording session by British rock stars. Calling themselves "Band Aid," they released the hit song "Do They Know It's Christmas?" referring to starving Ethiopians, last December. It was this British performance that served as model for USA for Africa's recording project.

"The beauty of these efforts," Belafonte says, "is that the act of buying a record is no longer just making a purchase. It is giving a gift."

The funds generated by USA for Africa are earmarked, allocated to four goals: 35 percent goes directly to African nations for immediate food and medical relief; the other 35 percent is used for agricultural and [illegible] supply development; 20 percent involves long-range economic development projects; and the final 10 percent, at Stevie Wonder's urging, is to relieve hunger and homelessness in the United States.

For Harry Belafonte, the project is not over. USA for Africa is promoting a benefit game by the All-Star [illegible] best baseball players in the United States, with the proceeds going to feed the hungry. Next, he hopes, films involving Hollywood superstars will be made to educate and inspire audiences everywhere.

Mark Gerzon is head of Mediators Inc., a California-based film production company.



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CURRENT CURIOSITIES

Whoever you are, wherever you are: watch out for AIDS

Most of the recent AIDS hysteria has been focused on the United States and Europe, but some scientists believe the disease is a far greater threat to the Third World.

"The potential for the spread of AIDS in developing countries is almost unlimited," John Seale, a London doctor who has been studying acquired immune deficiency syndrome since it was first reported, told the environmental group Earthscan.

The incidence of AIDS in Kinshasa, Zaire, is about 17 per 100,000, which "is comparable to or higher than the rate in San Francisco or New York," according to Peter Piot of the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium.

Some specialists believe that the early focus on homosexual AIDS victims created a misunderstanding of the disease. The recent increase of the disease among heterosexuals indicates that it may be transmitted by blood contact, sexually or otherwise, in the manner of hepatitis B, which is a major epidemic in the poorest countries of the Third World.

"The overcrowded and insanitary conditions in which the bulk of the people live (in developing countries) . . . make blood contact among family members practically inevitable, with the transmission of the (AIDS) virus likely," Seale says.

ILLUSTRATION BY LYNN PAULEY

Deng's shortest interview

One of the newer Chinese newspapers recently featured an essay on autumn, first-hand observations of the life of a grasshopper and the story of a boy who overcame his fear of fire to learn to boil water.

This unusual mix of news was splashed across the pages of the Little Masters, the only newspaper in China written and edited by children—all under 14 years old.

Started one year ago in Shanghai's Chang Ning district, the paper is staffed by 42 editors and 60 reporters, members of the Young Pioneers, a primary-school organization sponsored by the Communist Youth League.

Recent scoops include an interview with Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping—but the scrupulous editors limited his comments to a few short paragraphs on page one.

Do I hear one million? Two? Sold!

What is the value of a human life?

US courts will have to grapple with that macabre question now that claims totalling US$35 billion have been filed by American lawyers on behalf of the more than 2,000 people killed and many more crippled in the Bhopal, India, tragedy.

Likely factors in the proceedings will be the victims' income and status in society. The fact that the majority of those killed and injured were harijans, considered by some to be among the most wretched people on earth, could affect the outcome.

If the courts decide to turn to the US government for help, the answer won't get any clearer. Various agencies of the Reagan administration have commissioned studies in recent years to help them decide whether the costs of government regulations are worth the number of lives saved. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), for example, has pegged the value of life at $3.5 million.

But that's an outlandish amount compared with the White House budget office's $1 million calculation and the Federal Aviation Administration's paltry $650,000. The Environmental Protection Agency? It couldn't seem to make up its mind about the whole thing, accepting price ranges anywhere between $400,000 and $7 million.

Baby mummy launches new Ra expedition

What was the genetic structure of Ra, the great Egyptian Sun God?

Such an improbable question has been raised with the recent discovery of DNA in the left leg of a 2,400-year-old infant mummy by the Swedish scientist Svante Pääbo. Pieces of the baby's DNA, which suffered little damage over two millennia of preservation, were successfully reproduced in bacteria.

Scientists are quick to point out that it is impossible to clone a living creature from the ancient DNA—that's still the stuff of old horror movies. But the technique could be used to study perished civilizations using human remains on several continents, including Europe and South America.

But ancient Egypt seems to hold a special fascination, particularly since its royal families are believed to have practiced incest to preserve the bloodline of a dicty. Admits geneticist J.S. Jones of University College in London: "There is something intriguing about the possibility of learning the genotype of a god."

Moscow's real gold

You! Yes, you "can exploit the crisis in communism to your own financial advantage," breathlessly reports London-Washington Publications, based in the US capital.

Promising the chance to "get in on the ground floor," the group offers advice on how to profit from economic reforms in China, Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. "There will be millions made and lost as the great communist powers battle it out in an all-out effort to revive their stagnant economies . . ."

The group may have inadvertently given away Lesson One in "How to profit from crisis in communism," urging customers to return their order form today along with a check for US$39.95.

Ah, those long, slow Pacific nights...

As you read this, a Japanese man named Ken'ichi Horie is out floating in the middle of the Pacific Ocean without any gas.

But don't panic: the 46-year-old adventurer is being powered by the sun. Horie hopes to become the first person to navigate a solar-powered boat from Honolulu to Chichi Jima in the Ogasawara Islands off Japan.

The vessel, 30 feet long and about eight feet wide, "looks like an armor-plated secret weapon from a science fiction movie," according to the Japanese daily Asahi Shimbun. With 41 solar battery panels producing 1,100 kilowatts per hour, the boat putts along at an average speed of three knots.

Horie is no stranger to such journeys. He made the first solo Pacific crossing and has circumnavigated the globe longitudinally.

"If I keep the weight of the boat down to 1.2 tons, I have a good chance of crossing in less than 60 days," says Horie, who embarked in late May and hopes to complete the 4,000-mile odyssey by the end of July.

Pregnant Marcella's liberated husband

A man in Rome on business ruminated in a letter home to his wife of the need for education to liberate a woman "from the power and control of her husband and make her equal and independent in her quest for self-fulfillment."

The letter would be a good indication of recent male enlightenment were it not for the fact that it was written 17 centuries ago.

The philosopher Porphyry's 439-line message in Greek is being made available in modern English by Kathleen O'Brien Wicker, a scholar at Scripps College in California.

"In striking contrast to such ancient proclamations of female intellectual inferiority as the writings of Aristotle," Wicker says, "Porphyry recognized in his 'Letter to Marcella' that women need to aspire to goals of human development beyond the practical demands of raising a family."

Marcella had seven children.

Letters

WorldPaper welcomes letters from its readers, which should be mailed to 44 Kilby Street, Boston, MA 02109, USA.

It gets around

Congratulations on your articles about the World Media Conference (in Tokyo) and the Unification Church (the piece about me!). I found them fair, interesting and well-written.

Your paper certainly gets around. The agricultural attache at the Netherlands Embassy in Bangkok sent me a copy in case I had not seen it.

—Lorraine Isaacs
Television New Zealand

Is he or isn't he?

I thought the articles on Rev. Sun Myung Moon and the Unification Church (February 1985 issue) were well-written and fair. As a whole, the Unification movement is becoming more and more difficult to cover as it grows and diversifies.

Two small points: 1) No one believes Moon to be "the Second Coming of God" (as the lead article says). Unification Church members generally believe he *is* the Second Coming of the Messiah—a big difference. 2) The Unification movement spread to Japan, the United States and Europe in the 1960's, not the 1970's. It is doing quite well in parts of Africa and South America (unlike the Middle East).

—Thomas Cromwell, Publisher
The Middle East Times
Nicosia, Cyprus

The only Messiah

Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Unification Church, has confused people all over the world and it's about time something was done to stop this. Moon calls himself the "potential" Messiah (which is sheer rubbish). Everyone who believes in Moon should read the Bible to know that Jesus Christ is the one and only Messiah.

—Meriam George
Singapore

More about swords

I came across a copy of your July 1982 issue and read with interest the article on Japanese swords written by one of your associate editors, Yoshiko Sakurai. It would be nice to know more about Seikichi Kurokawa and his collection of antique Japanese swords.

—Angelo Ilagan
Quezon City, Philippines

Linking markets

In connection with your cover story on the Pacific Basin (March 1985), I would like to point out that our Camara de Comercio Exterior (Chamber of Foreign Commerce) in Salta, Argentina, is trying to establish a gateway to the Pacific for the products of northern Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay through the Chilean ports of Antofagasta and Iquique.

This project is coordinated by Geicos, which organizes the efforts of private enterprises and chambers of commerce and industries in those countries, as well as in Peru and Chile. As part of this effort, we hold a general trade fair periodically and our seventh will be held in Salta next October 17-27.

The project provides a direct link to the dynamic Pacific markets, and is essential to our countries' development.

—Victor Laster
Camara de Comercio Exterior
Salta, Argentina

Practicing "Churchianity"

To a Catholic Church that has evolved to preach and practice "Churchianity" more than "Christianity," liberation theology (WorldPaper, April 1985) may come as just as much of a shock as Jesus was to the scribes and pharisees.

The "confrontation" of (Brazilian theologian Leonardo) Boff by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith—which more than ironically was responsible for the Inquisition—has an uneasy similarity to the manner in which the apostles were hauled before the Jewish Council.

—Tyrol C.S. Ferdinands
Kandy, Sri Lanka

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Commentary/By Carlos Rangel

The tide turns in Latin America

THE TIDE OF DEMOCRACY is flowing in Latin America. This is something to rejoice about, but may prove difficult to sustain, as other "democratic cycles" have shown in the past. Something more than shallow celebration is needed to foster democratic tendencies in the region.

Latin American republics so far have not succeeded in establishing a legitimate, durable institutional equilibrium to replace the regime that was swept away with the fall of the Spanish empire in the Western Hemisphere between 1810 and 1824. Spanish colonial rule was shattered in the name of freedom, paving the way for a democratic order for which the United States provided the model.

The democratic aspirations thus engendered have since remained as one of the permanent components of our political landscape—an ever-present, and indeed collective, yearning for political freedom that foreign observers too easily discount when they take inventory of what in fact has happened.

The 19th century was marred nearly everywhere in Latin America by chronic instability, civil war or tyranny. For us Latin Americans, prolonged civil peace and stable democracy are exceptional experiences. Tyranny or civil war is the norm.

The Cuban revolution, on which we Latins originally pinned so much hope, and the events in Nicaragua are some of the most recent disappointments for those of us who believe in democracy and wish it to take a permanent hold in Latin American soil.

The rash of military dictatorships in the 1960's and 1970's resulted from the upheaval unleashed by Fidel Castro in the hemisphere, leading to the destabilization of even some of the oldest and seemingly secure democracies—Chile and Uruguay. Until about 15 years ago, Uruguay had been regarded as Latin America's "Switzerland."

Chile's solitary dictator, Pinochet

Financially weakened by its runaway welfare system, Uruguay became a casualty of the strains that the Cuban revolution had imposed on political structures everywhere in Latin America. The Uruguayan Castroites, known as Tupamaros, were among the most ferocious of the urban guerrillas spawned by the illusion that Fidel Castro had opened the way for quick and easy revolutions in the hemisphere.

Now the tide has turned. About 90 percent of Latin Americans today live under governments chosen in free, clean elections with an astonishing degree of citizen participation. There are other encouraging signs:

Only one in 10 Argentines or Venezuelans abstained in the presidential or parliamentary elections held in those countries in 1984. In Mexico (a special case but a half-way democracy nevertheless), over 80 percent of eligible voters went to the polls in the 1982 election won by Miguel de la Madrid, the current president.

Much more remarkable is the case of El Salvador, which, after never having seen democracy at work, has held five elections since 1982 (the most recent one being the national election that gave President Jose Napoleon Duarte a decisive legislative majority). Threats by the left wing or hard-core communist guerrillas, who coined the slogan in 1982—"If you vote in the morning, you'll be dead in the afternoon"—proved shallow.

Gigantic Brazil has seen democracy restored, although one must hold one's breath because of the untimely death of President-elect Tancredo Neves in April. Neves had skillfully given an honorable way out to the military, while maintaining and even greatly increasing his own prestige as a democratic leader.

Yet some things cannot be turned back. In 1982, 50 million Brazilians elected state governors, state and federal legislators, and city councils. The opposition won in several states, including Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

In that year, opposition candidates won in two presidential elections—Belisario Betancur in Colombia and Luis Alberto Monge in Costa Rica. In the Dominican Republic, the electoral victory of President Salvador Jorge Blanco represented the fifth orderly transition since that country was brought back from the brink of Castroization.

At the end of 1984, Panama witnessed a presidential election for the first time in 16 years. Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru for several years have had democratically elected presidents. In Peru, the opposition has just won—an event that assumes added significance because for the first time the president-elect, Alan Garcia Perez, was the candidate of the social-democratic party, the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance or APRA. Heretofore, the party had been kept from power by the Peruvian military since it was founded in 1924.

And last February, democracy returned to Uruguay after a cruel and humiliating military dictatorship. Uruguayans not only participated in a free election but also chose as president Julio Maria Sanguinetti, clearly the ablest of the candidates.

All told, Latin Americans in the last four years have cast more than 150 million votes in 35 elections in 24 countries. Add the fact that in free elections Latin Americans have never elected a man or a party running on an authoritarian or left-wing platform.

Add, too, the explosions of popular enthusiasm that invariably occur when a non-democratic regime falls, and one has grounds for concluding that the "democratic cycles" in this part of the world are not pendular swings but ascending segments of a spiral.

Carlos Rangel, a news columnist and co-anchor of a daily television interview program in Caracas, Venezuela, is WorldPaper associate editor for South America.

WorldDiary/By Crocker Snow, Jr.

Offensive Strategic Initiative

JEANE KIRKPATRICK, MELVIN Lasky, Irving Kristol, Tom Wolfe, Vladimir Bukovsky, Midge Decter, Michael Novak, Alain Besançon, Sydney Hooks, Norman Podhoretz.

Half a hundred luminaries of the high-riding neoconservative movement in the West congregated in Washington's Madison Hotel last month with the same sense of purpose as the pop music artists who gathered in Los Angeles a month earlier to record the memorable "We Are The World" song to benefit the victims of the African famine.

The Washington lyrics were equally repetitious, if not nearly so harmonious. For the writers and intellectuals, unlike those of the entertainment industry, were gathered to extol the righteousness of their own cause more than to exclaim the want and need of others.

Participants in a two-day conference entitled "Moral Equivalence: False Images of U.S. and Soviet Values," sponsored by the Shavano Institute in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State, the speakers waved the flag with vigor.

The assembled mandarins heard Jeane Kirkpatrick, who as US ambassador to the United Nations raised such a fresh voice against Soviet propagandizing and Third World mythmaking, set the tone by decrying a common tendency to see the superpowers as two birds of a feather. It is said, she said, "that in fundamental moral respects, the democracies and communist states are already much alike, a position that denies the virtues of the democracies and the vices of the totalitarian systems of the East."

US President Ronald Reagan was quoted: "Democracies have their own serious injustices to deal with. But this should not prevent us from making the crucial moral distinctions between pluralist systems that acknowledge their own wrongs and shortcomings, and systems that excuse their defects in the name of totalitarian ideology." The French writer Jean Francois Revel was also cited: "Democratic civilization is the first in history to blame itself because another power is working to destroy it."

With this as a leitmotif, speaker after speaker arose to affirm the wickedness of the Soviet system, the woolly-headedness of Western liberals and the fatuousness of much of the Western press in misleading the public. The false equating of American action in Vietnam with Soviet activity in Afghanistan, the taboo on liberal criticism of the governments of Chile and the Philippines much more than those of Cuba and Nicaragua, and an alleged tendency to ignore Moscow's ignoble designs were common themes.

Still, if the melody was repetitive, the individual improvisations did have flair: "The American people are healthy, only the elites are sick," said one speaker. "We're soft on communism by being soft on liberalism," stated another. "The one fundamental common ground of the American liberal is that he is a disturber of the peace," observed a third. "Elie Wiesel (the Jewish writer who reminded Ronald Reagan about the Holocaust) is a prophet, but (Aleksandr) Solzhenitsyn is seen as obsessed," fulminated another.

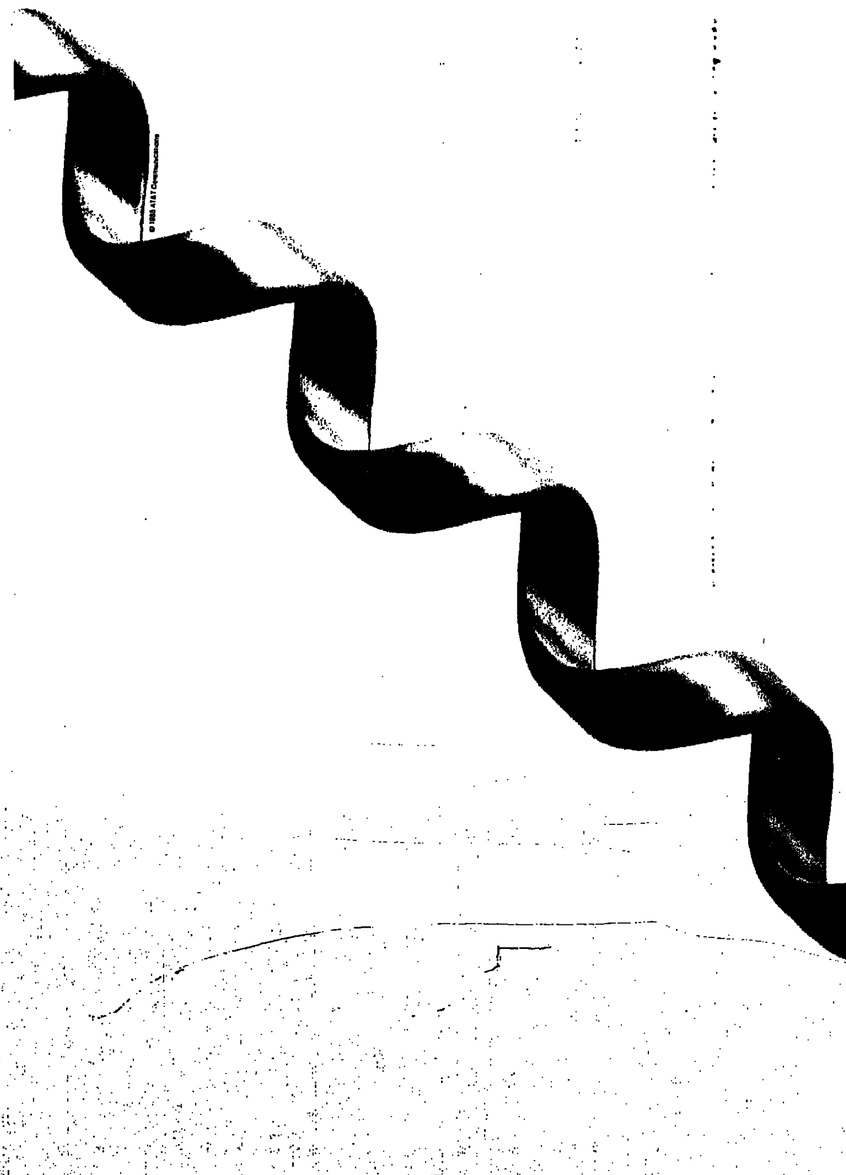
The meeting was subtitled "A Trans-Atlantic seminar for intellectual leaders, policy-makers and concerned citizens." This citizen, anyway, was concerned—at the one-sided, little-room-for-discussion nature of the affair.

Let the record show, however, that a representative group of less conservative thinkers was invited. Such persons as the linguist Noam Chomsky, historians Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., Henry Steele Commager and others had uniformly declined to attend.

This left the State Department, which footed half of the $100,000 tab, in an awkward position. "We liked the idea of the conference and wanted to help it happen," said Kenneth Thompson of the State Department. "Our role was that of a silent partner. Naturally we were disappointed that the participation was so one-sided politically. But when the very liberals responsible for this notion of moral equivalence are those who choose not to come, it didn't seem right for us to pull out."

In the event, the conversation among the conservatives had a tone of smugness and self-assurance, in keeping with the mood of the country. One speaker pointed out that the biggest box office hits are Clint Eastwood and Sylvester Stallone, two self-styled "adjusters" on the screen and in real life.

The meeting, like many such on either side of the political spectrum, was notable for its lack of any Asian participation and precious little from the Third World. It was notable, too, that while official US and Soviet negotiators were recessing in Geneva in the latest round of arms control talks, the unofficial agenda-setters in Washington were deploying a new and cerebral "offensive" weapons system of their own.



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Investcorp of Bahrain replaced by GECC

GENERAL ELECTRIC Credit Corp. (GECC), a Stamford, Connecticut-financial services unit of General Electric Co., 14 May signed an agreement with Tiffany & Co., the New York jewelry concern, for an $85 million credit facility. The facility is in keeping with the plan announced in conjuction with the acquisition of Tiffany & Co. of 15 October, 1984. The terms of the agreement provide for GECC to extend the $85 million credit facility to Tiffany and the right to acquire a sizeable equity holding in the jewelry concern.

Last 15 October acquisition, led by Tiffany's management, was underwritten, among others, by Investcorp, the Bahrain-based Arabian Investment Banking Corp. The GECC agreement replaces the temporary financing provided by Investcorp will place a portion of the investment internationally, probably in mid-July or August. The resulting ownership will be a diversified group of US and international institutions and individuals with majority-held US investors, including Tiffany's management group.

Investcorp provides investment and financial advisory services for clients in the Gulf and elsewhere. The $200 million capitalized concern, last 30 August was instrumental in arranging with Avon Products Inc., Tiffany's parent company, to sell the jewelry concern to its management and international investors on a leveraged buyout basis for a total of $135.5 million. Investcorp was to have placed $53 million of that amount, including taking an $8 million equity in Tiffany.

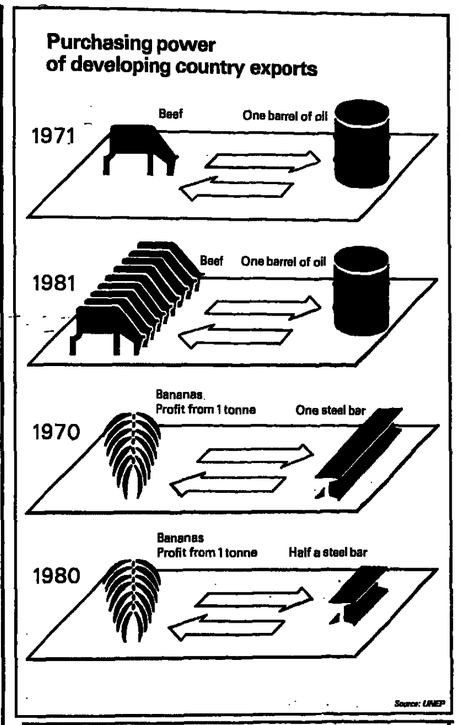
MidEast report

Gold in Jordan

AMMAN — (Star) — Prices on Monday 17 June, 1985 were as follows:

18 ct.. JD 3.100 per gramme
21 ct.. JD 3.600 per gramme
24 ct.. JD 4.350 per gramme
One kilogramme (9999) JD 4,150.000
Ounce.... JD 135.280
Gold Sterling.... JD 30.000 (Central Bank)
Rashadi Pound.... JD 26.200 (Seven grammes)

Source: Yousif Abu Sara, Jewellers, Amman



Currencies - France

PARIS (Kuna) — The US dollar lost more than 2 cents in bank transactions here Monday, trading at 9.3575 Francs compared with last Friday's close at 9.3720.

The British Pound was traded at 11.9215 compared with 11.968, the Deutschmark at 3.0495 compared with 3.0498, the Swiss Franc at 3.2683 compared with 3.6225, the Belgian Franc at 15.127 compared with 15.125 for 100 Belgian francs, and the Japanese Yen at 3.76 compared with 3.7705 for 100 Yen.

In the bullion market, gold was traded at $317.40 an ounce and silver at $6.20 an ounce.

UK compaigns for saving energy

LONDON (Kuna), — The British government is planning a campaign to make Britain's energy use more efficient and save £7 billion ($8.7 billion) a year on fuel bills.

The UK's current energy bill is some £35 billion and the government hopes that domestic and industrial savings amounting to 20 per cent can be achieved through more efficient methods.

The campaign will hinge on a direct mail approach to every home nationwide, along with an intention by energy ministers to talk to executives of every industrial company in the UK.

KD bond prices

KUWAIT (Kuna) — Despite a small rise in interest rate levels on Kuwaiti dinar deposits in the past week, KD bond prices consolidated at the higher levels achieved recently, according to a market comment by the Arab company for trading securities.

However, with the absence of any new issue volume, conditions in the marketplace have remained generally quiet, it said, adding that good quality issues remain much in demand.

Nevertheless, as yield levels fall in foreign bond markets, and there is a decline in borrowing costs to the borrower, it appears more and more likely that several issuers in the KD bond market will exercise the call option upon their existing KD debt. This will in turn place additional pressure upon the KD bond market in the near term as the supply of quality borrowers gradually evaporates due to the early call feature, and are technically forced to consider borrowing in the overseas markets, it said.

The report noted, meanwhile, that this situation may be alleviated to a certain extent by replacing maturing debt issued by foreign companies by local issuers of good standing.

Israel's external debt stands at $24 billion

LONDON (Kuna) — Israel's economy "ticks like a time bomb and the ticking is inflation," a leading British newspaper stressed Sunday.

Inflation was at an annual rate of 407.1 per cent for 1984-1985 and the bomb was liable to explode once the current price freeze was lifted, the Observer newspaper said in a report on the economic situation in the Jewish state.

The underlying problem was Israel's five billion dollars balance of payment deficit, it pointed out.

Reserves of foreign currency were dangerously near the "red line" at two billion dollars — hardly sufficient to pay two months imports, the publication indicated.

There was also a crisis of confidence and Tel Aviv was suffering from a chronic shortage of technicians. The Arabs living there comprised the bulk of the blue collar work force, the weekly reported.

Meanwhile, Israel's external debt stood at some $ 24 billion — half of it in loans from the United States, it added.

The reality was that Israel was still paying for the 1973 war and defence accounts for some 25 per cent of its budget would increase, given the cost of modern weaponary, the Observer believed.

World stocks

LONDON (Kuna) — Trading was quietly firm at the opening on the London stock market, Monday, brokers here reported.

They added that leading shares and oil issues had improved. At its opening quotation the Financial Times Index gained 3.6 points rising to 982.7.

In New York the Dow Jones average had Friday closed up 10.86 at 1,300.96.

The Australian market responded to an improved gold price and the all-ordinaries index rose 1.2 points to finish at 41.6.

Trading was active in Tokyo and the Nikkei Dow Jones average was up 15.96 at 12,769.28.

The Hong Kong market was closed for a public holiday.

Exchange rates in Dinar

	buy	sell
US dollar	.402	.405
Sterling pound	.505	.515
German mark	.130	.131
French franc	.042	.043
Swiss franc	.154	.155
Dutch guilder	.115	.116
Italian lire (1000)	.202	.208
Swedish kroner	.044	.046
Saudi riyal	.108	.109
Kuwaiti dinar	1.305	1.315
UAE dirham	.108	.109
Egyptian pound	.280	.282
Syrian lira	.035	.035
Iraqi dinar	.380	.390
Omani riyal	1.145	1.155

Source: National Jordanian Exchange Company

What Money Earns in Foreign Currencies

Monday, 17 June, 1985

Currencies Period	US$	DM	FF	SF	D Fls	Yen	Sterling Pound
1 M	7 9/16	5 1/2	5 3/16	10	6 11/16	6 1/8	12 9/16
2 M	7 9/16	5 1/2	5 3/16	10 1/4	6 5/8	6 1/8	12 7/16
3 M	—	5 1/2	5 3/16	10 3/16	6 5/8	6 1/8	12 5/16
6 M	7 3/4	5 9/16	5 1/4	10 3/8	6 5/8	6 3/16	12 3/16
9 M	7 15/16	5 9/16	5 1/4	10 7/16	6 9/8	6 1/4	12 3/16
12 M	8 1/16	5 11/16	5 1/4	10 11/16	6 9/8	6 1/4	11 7/8
2 Years	9 1/4	6	—	—	—	—	—
3 Years	9 3/4	6 1/4	—	—	—	—	—
4 Years	10		—	—	—	—	—
5 Years	10 1/4	—	—	—	—	—	—

(Source: Finance and Credit Corporation)

Contracts & Contacts

- SUPPLY OF laboratory and chemical materials for the Jordan Phosphate Mining Co. Tender documents are available upon payment of JD 20. Closing date: 20 July, 1985.
- CONSTRUCTION OF a main road from Zarqa Refinery triangle to Mafraq/Azraq triangle. Work involves construction of a 6.8 km four-lane road. Tender documents are available upon payment of JD 200. Closing date: 23 June, 1985.
- PREPARATION OF designs and tender documents for over 20 schools, laboratories, workshops etc. fpr tje Ministry of Public Works. Tender documents are available upon payment of JD 15 for each copy. Closing date: 15 July, 1985.
- PREPARATION OF designs and supervision of a technical school building complex in Sam Rousan on an area of 75000 sq. m. Tender documents are available upon payment of JD 25. Closing date: 23 June, 1985.
- SUPPLY OF equipment for the educational centre for the development of manpower in the health field. Tender documents can be had from the Jordan University on payment of JD 5. Closing date: 15 July, 1985.
- SUPPLY OF equipment for the Jordan University's Press. Tender documents are available upon payment of JD 5. Closing date: 15 July, 1985.
- TO STUDY main and branch sewerage system and treatment of water and stations for re-using the water including supervision of the works for the Water Authority. Tender documents are available upon payment of JD 100. Closing date: 30 July, 1985.
- SUPPLY OF chemicals for the Jordan Electricity Authority. Tender documents are available upon payment of JD 1. Closing date 25 June, 1985.
- SUPERVISION OF major engineering works of the Ministry of Public Works. Tender documents are available upon payment of JD 200. Closing date 7 July, 1985.
- SUPPLY AND installation of different furniture to the students centre for the Jordan University. Tender documents are available upon payment of JD 15. Closing date: 15 July, 1985.
- SUPPLY AND erection of the lighting poles and accessories and the necessary electrical distribution networks to light various roadways under Amman Roadway Lightup Project for the Jordan Electricity Authority. Tender documents are available upon payment of JD 150. Closing date: 29 August, 1985.
- CONDUCTING OF technical study of sites for the Ministry of Public Works. Tender documents are available upon payment of JD 15. Closing date 10 July, 1985.

Middle East Contracts

- GRUMMAN CORP. of Bethpage, New York, has been awarded a $124.9 million US Navy contract to produce E-3C aircraft for Egypt, the US, and Singapore.
- THE LOS-Angeles-based Northrop Corp. has won US Air Force contracts aggregating $14.3 million to manufacture F-15 aircraft spare parts and repair aircraft for Saudi Arabia, in addition to executing F-5 engineering work for Taiwan. Also, next November, Northrop will deliver six F-5 fixed-wing fighter aircraft to Bahrain, costing in excess of $100 million. The Bahrain Defence Force's purchase will include four Sidewinder missile-carrying F-5E combat planes and two F-F5 two-seater trainers.
- RAYTHEON GULF Systems Co. of Andover, Massachusetts, a subsidiary of Raytheon Co., has received a $5 million US Army contract to furnish Kuwait with 84 man-months of technical assistance and 147 man-months of logistics engineering assistance for the Gulf state's surface-to-air Hawk missile batteries. The contract is expected to be fulfilled by 30 April, 1987.
- MAWARID SERVICES Ltd., a subsidiary of the Saudi Arabian company Al-Mawarid Ltd., led a consortium of Saudi and US companies which won a $154.6 million, three-year contract to clean, operate and maintain King Abdul Aziz International Airport of Jedda. The consortium includes two other Saudi firms which are minority partners, and the US concern Serv-Air, a subsidiary of E-Systems Inc. of Dallas, Texas.
- GENERAL ELECTRIC Co. (GE) and Pratt and Whitney, a division of United Technologies Corp., are planning to establish equity partnership with either the Government-owned Saudi Arabian Airlines (Saudia) or the privately-held National Industrialization Co. (NIC) in order to build a plant for overhauling commercial and military plane engines in Saudi Arabia. GE and Pratt and Whitney are each looking to fund 25 per cent of the maintenance plant. It is expected that GE awarded a $200 million "Peace Shield" radar contract, will fulfill its 30 per cent or $70 million offset requirements through its investment in the plant. "Peace Shield" is the $3.94 billion early warning defence project commissioned by Saudi Arabia.

Turkey plans pipelines with Gulf war adversaries

Both Iran and Iraq plan pipelines to Turkey's ports to export oil, the main source of finance for their five-year-old conflict. Turkey will benefit from increased investment and possible regional military co-operation to combat Kurdish separatists.

LONDON — Turkey has emerged as a chief beneficiary of the war of logistics between Iraq and Iran by seizing the opportunities offered by the two adversaries' eagerness to build alternative oil and gas pipelines away from the battle zone.

Iraq's oil terminals were put out of action when the war erupted in September 1980, and Iranian exports from the Gulf are dwindling because of Iraqi air attacks — hence the need to divert shipments to safer outlets.

The multi-billion-dollar projects promise Turkey economic advantage plus a military edge over a lingering Kurdish insurgency in its eastern provinces, where the pipelines will pass through a rugged but vulnerable terrain.

Once in service, the pipelines will also enable Iran and Iraq to continue their conflict.

Ironically, some of the projected Iraqi and Iranian pipelines may run parallel across the Turkish countryside.

The relatively secure overland export routes were necessitated by Iran's stranglehold on the Gulf at the Strait of Hormuz and Iraqi attacks on tankers off Kharg Island.

Since both combatants must continue to sell oil to finance the war, they have no alternative to improved co-operation with Turkey to secure access to world markets.

Despite its close Western ties as a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and Iran's hostility to other Western countries, Turkey has successfully convinced each of its neutrality in the war.

Iraq and Turkey have signed an agreement for the construction of a 600,000 barrels-per-day pipeline at the cost of $215 million.

It will connect Iraq's Kirkuk oilfields in the north with the Turkish port of Dortyol 613 miles (987 km) to the west, crossing territory prone to Kurdish attacks.

At present, Iraq's only major functioning export outlet is another pipeline through Turkey to the Mediterranean port of Yumurtalik.

Earlier this year, Iran and Turkey launched a joint feasibility study for two other pipelines to transport Iranian oil and gas to the Mediterranean.

The pipelines, with a projected capacity of 1.5 million barrels of oil a day and 50 billion cubic feet (1.5 billion cu m) of gas a year respectively, would run from Iran across Turkey and continue to Greece and southern Italy. The Iranian facilities would also pass through Turkey's ethnic Kurdish areas in eastern Anatolia.

By Thomas Land
Compass Features

Turkey has tempted Iran with the project since the time of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, overthrown in 1979 to make way for the present Islamic Republic.

But the Shah considered instead a pipeline to sell natural gas to the Soviet Union, West Germany, Italy and France.

The new project is part of a wide-ranging economic co-operation agreement recently signed by the two countries.

"Iraq enjoys the long-term prospect of becoming one of the world's biggest oil producers," said energy analyst Isabel Gorst in a recent discussion on the Gulf war.

Now in its fifth year, the conflict has reduced Iran's exports from 3.3 million to less than 1 million barrels of oil a day.

"Oil sales earn 98 per cent of Iraq's foreign revenue," she said. "Its ambitious industrial and agricultural expansion schemes of the 1970s have all but ground to a halt.

"Attention is now focused instead on strategic projects, most of which concern the creation of a larger and more flexible oil export system."

Iran's circumstances are in many ways similar, she said. At the heart of Iran's economic difficulties is the reduction of oil production and export capacity from 6 million to barely 2 million barrels a day, according to industry sources.

Scores of wells have had no workovers since 1979, corrosion has set in and some are lost forever, the sources said.

"The experts say lack of maintenance, war damage and general neglect mean that much shut-in capacity cannot be restarted without new pipelines and other facilities. The continuing war means both countries have to spend large amounts of foreign exchange on armaments.

The war already has yielded considerable trade for Turkey and helped revive its flagging economy.

Iraqi imports from Turkey have nearly trebled since the war began, while Iran has become Turkey's biggest export market, worth $1.1 billion in 1983, up from $85 million only three years earlier.

The projects will attract substantial foreign investment to Turkey, in addition to preferential access to oil and gas supplies from Iran and Iraq and transit fees for the export traffic.

The pipelines may even lay the foundatio for the regional military co-operation sought by Turkey to suppress Kurdish separatism.

The Kurdish-inhabited territory covers parts of eastern Turkey, northern Iraq and western Iran, as well as fragments of Syria and the Soviet Union.

Turkey and Iraq have already signed a military co-operation agreement aimed at containing the Kurds, which enabled the Turkish army last year to pursue insurgents across the common border into Iraq.

The Turkish military has been unable to secure similar co-operation from Iran, though it may now hope for Iran's acquiescence in view of enhanced co-operation in other fields and Iranian self-interest.

When the pipelines are built, their safety and uninterrupted operation would be a mutual concern of the three nations involved.

Arabs set up concerns abroad

ARAB TRADING is not new. The Arabs are famous in gold and precious metals trading. What is new, however, is that prominent Gulf merchants are opening trading offices in Europe, the Far East and the United States. To be sure, some of those offices were basically procurement offices designed to supply headquarters back home with necessary commodities purchased abroad such as cement, grain, sugar, wood, construction material, etc. The new trend, however, focuses on energy, grain, cement, fertilizers and petrochemicals.

Saudi financier Chaith R Phaison purchased this year Tradigrain of Switzerland with a subsidiary near Virginia Beach, Virginia. He also is in partnership with Montedison of Italy in a company called Cedar Trading. In December 1983, he acquired from Philipp Brothers a fertilizer plant in Florida called Phibro Resources, which he changed into Intercontinental Development Corp.

The Al-Qahtani Group of Dammam, Saudi Arabia, headed by Sheik Abdul Hadi Abdullah al-Qahtani, has an eleven-year-old trading office in Houston, Texas, called Saudi Arabian Overseas Services, Inc. (Saosi). Xenel Industries Ltd. of Jedda, under Abdullah Zainal Alireza, has Arabian Gulf Trade Ltd. specializing in cement, fertilizer, sulphur and grain. The Kanoo Group of Bahrain established in 1980 Houston Overseas Corp. in the Texan city. Al-Zamil Group of Companies of Al Khobar also set up AH Al-Zamil Co., Inc. in Houston. Saudi merchant Abdullah Taha Bakhsh has a trading company in Chicago, Illinois, called Traco.

Another Saudi financier Adnan M Khashoggi is considering opening a trading company in New York and acquired Edgington Oil Co. in Long Beach, California in 1983 through Triad America Corp. of Salt Lake City, Utah. Kuwaiti merchant Sheik Yousif Abdul Aziz Al-Musaini and the Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting and Investment Co. founded AFARCO International Corp. (for Afro-Arab Company for Investment and International Trade) in McLean, Virginia, also in 1983. Akram Ojjeh, the Syrian-born Saudi magnate has a trading firm in Paris whithin the TAG Group (Techniques d'Avant-Garde). Sheik Abdul Aziz Suleiman of Jedda owns a trading concern in New York called Rolsco Services, Inc.

Sheik Amin J al-Dahlawi, head of M Jamil al-Dahlawi Co of Jedda, has a company in Miami, Florida, called Zaminco International, Inc., which is specializing in general trade, among other operations. Roger E Tamraz, the Egyptian-born Lebanese financier, formed Tamoil in 1983 to trade oil and purchase petroleum refineries and installations, mostly in Europe and the US. Prominent Saudi merchant Sheik Suliman S Olayan created perhaps the first Arab trading concern in the US in the 1970s called Cantrol Inc. (for General Trading Olayan) in New York.

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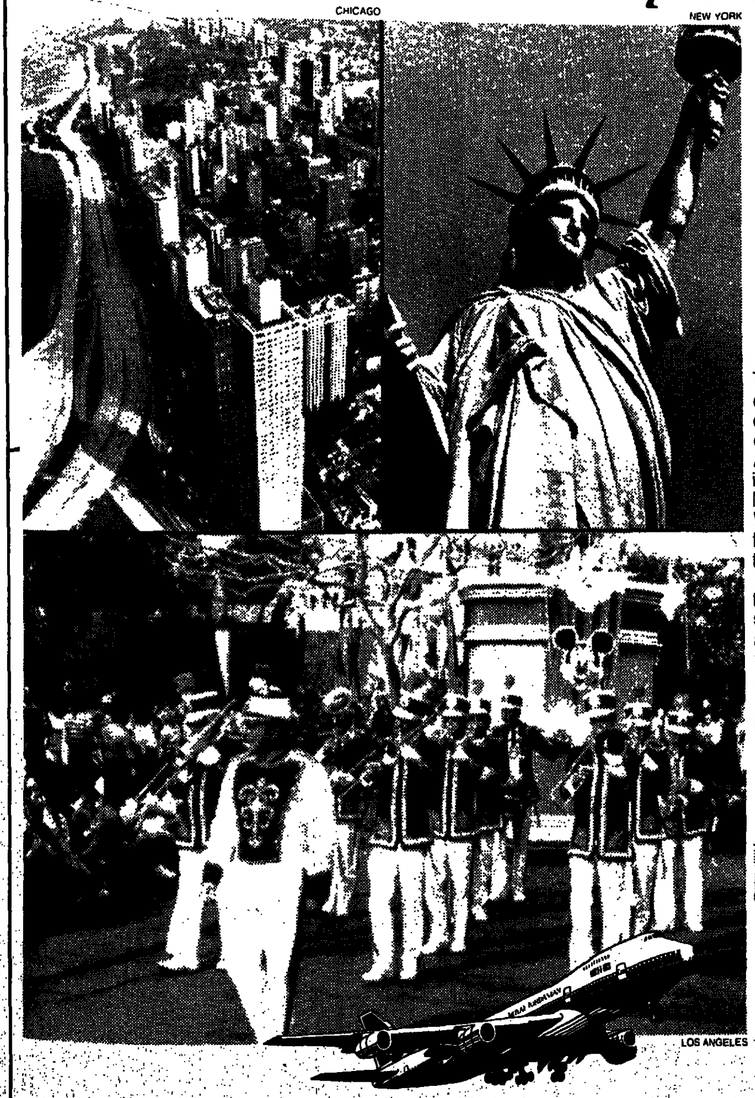

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RJ 8511

Don't worry, my son

Part III: Dependence, independence

The Mau Mau emergency was a time of fear and tension in the Kenyan countryside in 1956. Njuguna Githagui, who was then becoming progressively crippled following a blow on the head at the age of four, describes an incident during the emergency and the impact of approaching independence in the third of four excerpts from his autobiography, 'Don't Worry, My Son'.

By Njuguna Githagui
Compass News Features

ONE TUESDAY evening we were startled by a heavy knock on the door. "They have come!" my mother whispered, fear on her face. The kerosene lamp hanging on the wall was put on the floor and the light turned low, leaving the room in virtual darkness.

The knock was repeated, followed by a boot kick on the door that seemed to shake the entire house. "Who is it?" my father asked. The answer was another resounding kick, and the order to open up. We opened the door. Three armed soldiers entered and ordered us to turn on the light.

They looked around for a moment, and then their leader, looking cold and fierce, said to my father, "I want you to come with us. We are going to look for terrorists in Ngong forest." "But I'm on duty tomorrow morning," my father protested. Hardly had he finished when the soldier gave him a big slap on the face. We all gasped, for it was incredible that anyone could do that to our father, a man respected throughout the area.

'My father had no alternative but to obey. He put on his overcoat and hastily said goodbye. After he had gone, we were full of fear and anxiety, not knowing when and if he would ever come back. Fighting the terrorists was hardly a picnic'

My father had no alternative but to obey. He put on his overcoat and hastily said goodbye. After he had gone, we were full of fear and anxiety, not knowing when and if he would ever come back. Fighting the terrorists was hardly a picnic.

He was gone for several days. On his return, he recounted to us his adventures and hardship in the Ngong forest, where they had done a lot of bush clearing but not come across any terrorists.

My condition had gone from bad to worse, the ulcers on my back spreading unchecked. First I would have thick, pimples, which would later become soft, making the skin yellow and transparent. Then this would break into copious yellow pus.

One cold evening my father told my mother in a sombre voice that I had to be taken back to the hospital. That night I lay in my bed and I wept silently, heartbroken. My mother came with a torch. She thought that I was crying because of the pain and tried to comfort me. Her kind words, "Don't worry, my son," made me cry even more.

(Back in Nairobi, in the children's ward, Njuguna's condition improved and the back ulcers healed, leaving scars. But there were other terrors. One morning a body died.)

It happened just after the ten o'clock tea was served. I was sitting up on my bed, waiting anxiously for someone to bring me a urine bowl, when the boy dropped down from bed number five and began to stagger away deliriously, supporting himself on beds and wall.

People shouted that he had gone mad. He reached the exit. He fell down, quickly rose and fell again. Somebody rushed to call the doctor, but the boy was already dead. Fear filled the ward.

When the parents of the boy came that evening to see him, they were told of his death. Because of the rain and the countryside mud they looked terribly dirty, especially the father, who was just a simple peasant in an old torn coat.

Although she tried to bear it calmly, the mother was unable to control the tears, and she removed her head-dress and wiped her eyes. Self-consciously, she looked around, and her eyes met mine.

She broke away and came to me, and said in a trembling, husky voice, "I brought these bananas, this milk and this bread for my boy. Now he is dead. You are my son too. I want you to have them." Her voice broke.

I was uncertain whether to accept food that had been meant for a dead person. It was some time before I could come to terms with my conscience well enough to eat it. The body was escorted to the mortuary, and I was left haunted by the fear that I might be next.

'I was uncertain whether to accept food that had been meant for a dead person. It was some time before I could come to terms with my conscience well enough to eat it. The body was escorted to the mortuary, and I was left haunted by the fear that I might be the next'

* * * * *

(After several weeks Njuguna was once again discharged, still unable to walk unaided.)

On the way home an uncle of mine saw my father and came to greet him. They discussed me and my father's searing words burned into my mind: "Now he is a permanent cripple."

Life at home was wearisome, wholly without meaning. Sometimes my mother would take me outside for fresh air, but I found this embarrassing, as people would look at me, making comments.

My relationship with my family was also strained. In the evening when we all sat round the fire, I remained silent. As they laughed they turned to me, wanting me to laugh too, but I retreated into my own private world full of agony and misery.

That evening my father said to Mungai, my brother, "I am intending to buy a wheel chair for your brother. Will you push around when he asks?" "Yes," Mungai said dutifully. My father turned to me. "It will be a wooden chair and will need a lot of care and attention, do you understand?"

In about two weeks the wooden chair came. It opened out my world considerably. Before then, my movement had been limited to just being carried in and out of the house. Now I could enjoy being wheeled to places beyond the house. My spirits were greatly uplifted during those little trips.

Meanwhile I was making slow but steady progress in the field of learning. In about a year I could read fluently. As time went on, the big talk in the whole country became independence and the end of the terrible emergency. One day it was announced that the dusk-to-dawn curfew, which had been there since October 1952, had come to an end.

People were overjoyed, for now they could resume normal life. Every day the radio called upon those still in the forest to come out and surrender, as "Uhuru" was near.

I did not have a clear idea of 'Uhuru' and what it meant; I supposed it would be something like Christmas, with lots of feasting, songs and dances.

Many African leaders emerged from obscurity and came into prominence, holding huge meetings at which they promised to do wonderful things for the people. People flocked to hear them speak, but I had to be content to hear the news second-hand.

To me, independence remained a vivid fantastic rumour blowing in the wind around me. With many of my brothers and sisters having left home and almost all the others in school, I was leading a solitary life, trying to grapple with the events.

One evening as we were sitting by the fireside, the DC's radio which could be heard for miles announced something that raised my hopes about my condition. A voice was speaking, painting a picture of the future. My mind fastened on to what concerned me particularly.

"And the most important thing is that we shall not forget all those brothers and sisters who have become crippled. We must build schools for them. We must build rehabilitation centres for them so that they can be useful citizens tomorrow."

My mother almost jumped for joy. "Did you hear that? He talked about the crippled, and that they will be helped when Uhuru comes!"

I tried to share her joy. But I couldn't help wondering what I could get after Uhuru, when so many big doctors had already failed and given up on me.

* * * * *

(As Njuguna entered his teens, his elder brother Njaga returned home after studying in England.)

For a full six months Njaga struggled against the system to get the job he wanted. Finally the white man, thinking him stubborn and rude, blew up and asked him whether he considered himself more important than the people already in that office. "Go and report me to your so-called leaders."

'With Uhuru (independence) becoming a reality to us and a horrible nightmare to the colonialists, this was the last kick of a dying horse. If my brother, who had gone to two foreign countries to study was finding it so rough, what hope had I?'

With Uhuru becoming a reality to us and a horrible nightmare to the colonialists, this was the last kick of a dying horse. If my brother, who had gone to two foreign countries to study, was finding it so rough, what hope had I?

A dark cloud seemed to hover over our homestead as our faith in the future had been shaken. Would Uhuru ever really come? Even my mother, who was a calm, collected woman, lost her patience, and allowed herself a burst of outrage. "When will this man (the white man) go and let our sons and daughters have a chance?"

Christians on the whole had avoided confrontation with the white men (bringers of light and civilisation), but now the thirst for the promised Uhuru was in everybody's blood.

Unaware that anybody was listening, my mother uttered words that a few years before would have been considered pure sedition.

Next week: Njuguna Githagui's story concludes with a description of his humiliating visits to organizations for the handicapped.

. . . the soldier gave him a big slap on the face. We all gasped, for it was incredible that anyone should do that to our father.

"The city" by Adeeb Autwan

"Ruins" by Othman Nabil. Canon A-1, lens Canon 28mm, F 2.8, shot taken at 1/125, f 13. Film Kodak VR ASA 100.

"Reading" by Salim Al Sayyed. Yashica FX-D, film Kodak.

"Resting" by Mohammed Abdellah. Yashica FX-3, film Kodak ASA 200

Buying your first camera

HERE IS the million dinar question: Which brand of camera should you buy as a beginner? And why do some pros prefer Nikon to Minolta or Canon to Olympus, for example. How would you know which is better, cheaper, durable and easier to use.

Well the first tip is that experience and habit determines most other factors.

It is like choosing between a BMW and a Mercedes Benz. Both have excellent qualities and it is only personal taste and money that plays the important role. But that is not every thing. First you should know about the Big Five. Excluding Leica, which is an expensive camera for the pros, the Big Five are the following: Nikon, Canon, Pentax, Olympus and Minolta. Yashica is definitely out, and so is Chinon and the rest of brands. But the Big Five are generally the favourite among pros and amateurs all around the world. Nikon is considered on top of this pyramid, sometimes only rivaled by Canon and Pentax. But what are the factors that make this brand a little better than the next one? Well, optics is number one. You buy a SLR camera because of the interchangeability of lenses. And this is one quality any photographer must have in his camera. After the lenses come the options the camera offers and each brand has a series of bodies with different options and pricetags like Canon, AT-1, Canon AV-1, Canon AE-1 and Canon F-1 for example. Each design has certain qualities in the body that makes a difference. In the body you look for shutter speed, lens mount mechanism, viewfinder options, loading and unloading procedures and others.

Durability is also important. As a beginner you don't want to buy a sophisticated camera that might break while you learn. You want to know how your camera performs in very cold or extremely hot weather conditions, depending on where you live. Also ask about the price of lenses. As you expand you will need a small fortune to get that zoom or this wideangle.

In my opinion any of the first three is a good option. If you don't want to spend a lot, then go for the last two. Nikon is an expensive camera and so are its lenses, which distinguish it from the rest of the group. But personally I like Canon and Pentax. Canon for its easy-to-use functions and Pentax for its mighty durability.

One last question you should consider before throwing your cash on that dream of yours, is the service in Jordan. Not all agents offer the same type of service nor do they promise you to have the extras you need when you decide to expand. Also remember that prices for the local market have gone considerably up in the last few months and therefore if you can get your camera from abroad then you will save a lot of money.

Mr Zoom

"Sunset" by Omar Sukhun, Canon, film Tudor

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Talented work from a 'hobby' artist

By Ersilia Moreno
Special to The Star

HAIFA AMARIN'S exhibition of paintings and drawings at the French Cultural Centre this week is a means of allowing the public to witness her developing inner talent in what she considers to be her hobby.

Haifa began experimenting with many different art mediums back in 1975. She participated in various student group exhibitions at the University of Jordan as well as last year's Jerash Festival. Her current exhibition of oils, watercolours, super plasts, and charcoal drawings is her first solo and Amarin says that it was her husband's suggestion and enthusiastic support that encouraged her to hold the exhibition.

In fact all of her family has been behind her. When she was a biology student at university her parents realized that she was not only capable in the sciences, (Today she is a laboratory technician with the Ministry of Health) so they purchased her the materials necessary and encouraged her to paint and draw.

"My husband has now taken over," she says "even though he himself doesn't paint he appreciates and understands art. While I was preparing for this exhibition he would help me. He would notice mistakes and suggest colours. Mr Tasir Bashar of the Art Department at the university would also advise me. My three children are also enthusiastic."

Haifa Amarin

Mrs Amarin explains that while she painted her children would sit with paper and colours and create themselves and they rarely disturbed her.

She adds that this exhibition is her way of showing the public the beauty of Jordan's people, landscape, and marine and desert life.

Most of her subjects in the charcoal drawings are creations of her imagination. Amarin says that generally while painting she changes her mind, constantly. Hence her finished products turn out different from her original idea. She notes that "Une Petite Fille" is a classic example. She changed the painting four times before arriving at the somber face of a little girl whose thoughts seem so sad and distant.

Haifa says that drawing human subjects, especially the old, is what appeals to her most. The things that go unsaid in the lines of the face of an aged bedouin in "Visage de Mon Pays" she captures instinctively.

Two of Haifa's oil landscapes, "Nature" and "Wadi Hasban", are examples of how she works with both her imagination and nature's reality. Looking at "Nature" the viewer might easily recall having seen such a place — yet to identify exactly where causes a problem. Employing the orange, brown and yellow colours of a fall day, she creates a serene forest scene whose background and foreground whisper in unison. Jordan's lush countryside is captured in its true state in "Wadi Hasban." With this painting Haifa says that she did a preliminary pencil sketch on sight and coloured it at home.

Her collection of desert life was inspired by a trip she took with the university to the northern desert region in Jordan. "Hajjana" is the most striking of the desert scenes. Her use of black and red is applied in a contrasting manner so that they become the silouhette of a pair of desert police and their camels against a ruby toned horizon.

Her political consciousness is also expressed the exhibition. Although the style employed in "Famille de Camp de Refugies de Beyrouth" is not original, this does not by any means deem it unworthy of attention. Haifa has executed the style superbly with just enough detail and shadowing. The suffering human forms with their nondescript faces express the true agony that the Palestinian refugees live with everyday in war-torn Lebanon.

Someday Haifa hopes to study art formally. She now attends almost all of the art exhibitions in Amman to pick up ideas and techniques. However this is an extremely difficult way to learn. Haifa is good and her natural talent is evident throughout the exhibition, but with some formal instruction her work could have that polished look that it lacks at this time. Then she may well be able to consider pursuing a second career in art.

'Famille de Camp de Refugies de Beyrouth'

Published by the AMERICAN-ARAB AFFAIRS COUNCIL

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CALENDAR

Exhibitions

The **French Cultural Centre** presents an exhibition of paintings by **Haifa Ammarine.**

Continues until Wednesday 26 June.

The **Royal Cultural Centre** presents an exhibition by Korean artist **Hang Chong Yop.**

Tuesday 25 June until Monday 1 July.

Films

The **French Cultural Centre** presents **'La Mort en Direct'** a 1979 film directed by **Bertrand Tavenier** and starring **Romy Schneider.**

Thursday 20 and Saturday 22 June at 7.45 pm.

The **American Centre** presents **'The Shootist'** starring **John Wayne.**

Thursday 27 June at 7.00 pm.

Lecture

The **British Institute of Archaeology** presents a lecture by **Alison McQuitty** on **'Jordanian Bread Ovens — Past and Present.**

Monday 24 June at 7.30 pm.

Monday 24 June at 7.30 pm.

Field Trip

The **Friends of Archaeology** are planning a trip to **Tell Irbid** and **Beit Ras.** Meet at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre at 8.30 am on Friday 21 June.

[D]own Under comes a little [cl]oser to Jordan

...mall but active group of ...lians and Jordanians have ...ly set about establishing a ...ship society to promote ...standing, cultural links and ...nd business between their ...ntries.

...mmad el **Khub** one of the ...ing members is optimistic ...the future of the new so... An Australian citizen, Mr ...b came to Jordan for the Australian trade fair and accepted an offer to work ...a local company, Fosroc, ...has business interests ...Australia. He is enthusias... ...t his stay in Jordan as his ...ear old son and three year ...ughter, will he says "have ...e to learn Arabic."

...el Khub explained that af... ...visits of His Majesty **King** ...n and His Royal Highness ...Hassan to Australia a ...of Friendship was signed ...n the two countries and ...society is one materiali... ...of this treaty.

...Jordanian Australian ...ship society has a founding ...ee of sixteen members ...from prominent compa... ...and organizations which ...ls with Australia. Three ...anking members of the ...Phosphate Company are ...ed including Chairman of ...ard, Mr **Wasef Azar**, as ...Mr **Fahad el Khub** and Mr ...**Suadi**. The Royal Scienti... ...ety "which has long esta... ...academic relations with ...lia", continues Mr el ...is also "well represented ...Board," members include ...**Rahadi** the public rela... ...fficer as well as Dr **Mu... Suadi**, head of the Eco... ...department and Dr **Saud** ...an economics expert who ...post graduate degree from ...ia.

...**Chris Trynes** the Austra... ...ul in Amman is en... ...tic about the new group ...he says is "designed to ...e communication between ...o countries." The nucleus ...e club will be Jordanians ...ed in Australia, Australian residents here and people with trade affiliations. The society Mr Trynes pointed out, has asked Australian Ambassador Mr **Richard Gate** to be Honorary chairman of the new society.

Mr el Khub is optimistic about the future of the society and says "we will invite cultural representatives from Australia, perhaps show some Australian films," and in general try to show Jordanians the accurate picture of Australia."

Hans Sternik

• Inter-Continental Hotels Corporation has named **Hans Sternik**, president and chief executive officer as of 1st October 1985. Mr Sternik has been with Inter-Continental Hotels Corporation since 1964 and throughout this period he has held a succession of executive positions in Europe and the Middle East. In 1972 he moved to New York headquarters.

• Al Dustour staff member **Mamdouh Ghaly** and his wife **San'a** are enjoying a very special feast this year following the birth of their son **Yahya** last Tuesday. Yahya came into the world a healthy 3.1 kilos and the Star wishes him a long and happy life.

* * * * *

• **Noor** and **Zein Talhouni** celebrated an early birthday this week when they entertained friends at a delightful garden party.

The party doubled as a farewell as the girls, with their father **Adnan**, mother **Norma** and brother **Bahjat** will soon be leaving for Switzerland where Adnan Talhouni has a four year posting as Jordan's ambassador. The family will be missed by their many good Amman friends.

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• If you are looking for experts in Airport emergencies **Mrs Fadia Shoueiry** and her two young sons **Joe** and **Naji** are the right people for you.

The Shoueiry's were among the 52 passengers who were supposed to be on the recent hijacked Alia flight but were left at Beirut airport as the plane made its rapid take-off.

Having missed their flight, the three booked onto the MEA flight which was due to take off for Larnaca the next day. Happily they missed that one too and once again avoided a hijacking.

Last year Fadia and her sons were among those who boarded the last, hair raising flight out of Beirut prior to the airport's six month closure.

And to cap things off two of Fadia's relatives were on the latest hijacked plane, the TWA travelling between Athens and Rome. Not altogether surprisingly, Fadia says that from now on she'll be thinking twice before she boards any plane!

* * * * *

• Jordan will be receiving a visit this week from **Mr Horst Gellenkeuser**, a senior official at the West German Television Centre in West Berlin. Mr Gellenkeuser, who arrives here from a visit to China, will stay for about eight days during which he will have discussions with the Director General of JTV and with television staff who have received training in Germany.

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All Things Considered

Joyce Abu Jassar

Woe to us from the complainer

COMPLAINERS! Aren't they tiresome? I have to complain about them. I don't mean the usually pleasant person who has a problem come up in his or her life, nor the ordinary person who may be persistently plagued by an unresolved situation, but the 'hard-core' complainer.

When faced with the occasional problem sometimes it does help a person to think things out if he or she airs what is bothering them. By talking about the problem all the different aspects of it may be sorted out and the person can point to which part of the circumstances are really the crux of it all.

By voicing his worries to others he may ask for their viewpoints on the affair and receive fresh outlooks about it, thus enabling him to arrive at some solution. This process is a positive one and may well bring about an end to the complaint.

But if the person is in some sort of situation that is not open to solution then complaining may be a method of coping with what will not be resolved. Complaining is then a safety valve to let off the pressure of emotions that build within the person when he or she must go on with whatever is burdening them.

The hard-core complainer fits neither of these categories. He is in a class by himself and once people know him for what he is he often finds himself in the room by himself also. Everyone else has moved into another room so they can escape listening to his never-ending tirade.

In the winter he grumbles over the cold and in the summer about the heat. Daytime finds him discontented with the bright sunlight and night brings resentment of the darkness. A rise in pay doesn't bring a smile to his lips because he was expecting it to be larger than it is. If someone brings him a gift it is never what he wanted, or the wrong colour, or they bought it from the wrong shop.

The hard-core complainer doesn't stop at things that actually touch him personally, events or people that play active parts of his life. Oh, no! He goes on and on about anything he sees or hears about.

"Look at the way that car is parked," he shouts as he drives down the street. The car is not blocking the flow of traffic nor is he searching for a place to stop because he is in the midst of his journey. Yet he is compelled to comment.

What to do about him and his never-ending commentary? Catch him asleep and tie a knot in his tongue. Put super-glue in his tea. Keep a set of ear plugs in your pocket. Dilute some rose cheek-blush and put it in a spray bottle. When you see him approaching, spray it on your face and hands, telling him it is a highly contagious disease and if he comes closer than 20 metres he will be in danger.

[U]ltimate Starcasts

By Henry Arnold
Week commencing 20th June, 1985

[CAPR]ICORN — December 21st to [Janua]ry 19th

...ndications are that you will be given ...portunity to organise a venture at ...me time during the coming week, ...as long as you are careful in your ...f associates, this should prove to be ...uccessful. You will be lucky in most ...except your emotions, and there ...e slight problems in this direction. ...will be of short duration, so do not ...too much about them.

[AQUAR]IUS — January 20th to February [18th]

...could be feeling in a very carefree ...throughout this coming week, and it ...need much persuasion from a friend ...you to agree to an extravagant even... ...some time during the next seven ...In the domestic field, an elderly per... ...and you could be making quite a few ...upon your time, and in conse... ...your patience will at times be ...d to the limit. At work, you could ...a very busy week.

[PISCE]S — February 19th to March [20th]

...your working life is concerned, it ...appear that you cannot afford to let ...much during this coming week. ...is a rather difficult person around ...otherwise, who could be looking for ...However, in your personal life, a ...could you could meet some time dur... ...week, will help to make it a very ...and indeed. Where finances are ...ned, you should try to save a little ...if you possibly can.

ARIES — March 21st to April 20th

At business, the indications are that you could receive an offer of a change, and in consequence, this would mean more money for you with added opportunity for advancement. You should not hesitate in accepting this. You would be very well advised to take most things in your stride during this coming week, because there could be one or two rather unexpected obstacles holding up your progress.

TAURUS — April 21st to May 20th

This should be a very good week from the word go, and it has the unexpected things happening, and these will count the most. You may be faced with having to explain the workings of a document at your place of work, which has been misplaced. Where your personal life is concerned, a member of the opposite sex may irritate you intensely. In this instance, you should try to be both diplomatic and tactful and this should soon be overcome.

GEMINI — May 21st to June 20th

The portents are that quite a lot of you will be travelling during this coming week, and by combining business with pleasure, you should make some extremely good headway in most directions. Your opposite number may be feeling rather tired at the beginning of the week, but do not worry, for this will not last, and you both have a very full week ahead of you, especially where social activities are concerned. Finances appear to be looking up now.

CANCER — June 21st to July 21st

This appears to be an extremely good week for you, and you should have some very good times where your social life is concerned. By the coming weekend, you should realise very clearly that you have made some very definite progress in an affair of the heart, and this should be a very happy time for you, and those closely around you. Where work is concerned, you should have some very good ideas. You will need some co-operation in this respect, so try not to be too independent.

LEO — July 22nd to August 21st

Where your working life is concerned, you may have to re-shuffle your plans slightly during this coming week. A course which is most likely to be forced upon you because you have been taking on too much of late. You should try to make economy your key word this week, as you may have been rather extravagant of late. A member of your family who has possibly been giving you some cause for worry recently will come round to your way of thinking.

VIRGO — August 22nd to September 21st

This coming week could possibly bring odd, little health problems with it, not necessarily to you personally, but to those around you. There will be extra work put on you on account of the absence of others at business. Emotionally, you would be very well advised not to let your imagination run away with you where a newly formed romance is concerned, or you could very easily get hurt. Finances appear to take a turn for the better.

LIBRA — September 22nd to October 22nd

In the romantic field, you will be feeling more happily stable now, than you have done for quite some time past, and affairs in this direction appear to run very smoothly for you. In the home, you may come up against a rather stubborn relative, but you should get over this. When making any arrangements this week, you would do well to consult your opposite number first, or you could find that your plans will be in opposition to one another.

SCORPIO — October 23rd to November 21st

In the financial field, you could find that a little more money could be coming your way very soon, not money you have earned, but rather some windfall from an unexpected quarter. The indications are that this coming week should be smooth and calm for you in most directions, with very few irritations. Where your health is concerned, this should present no problems, and it should be a good week.

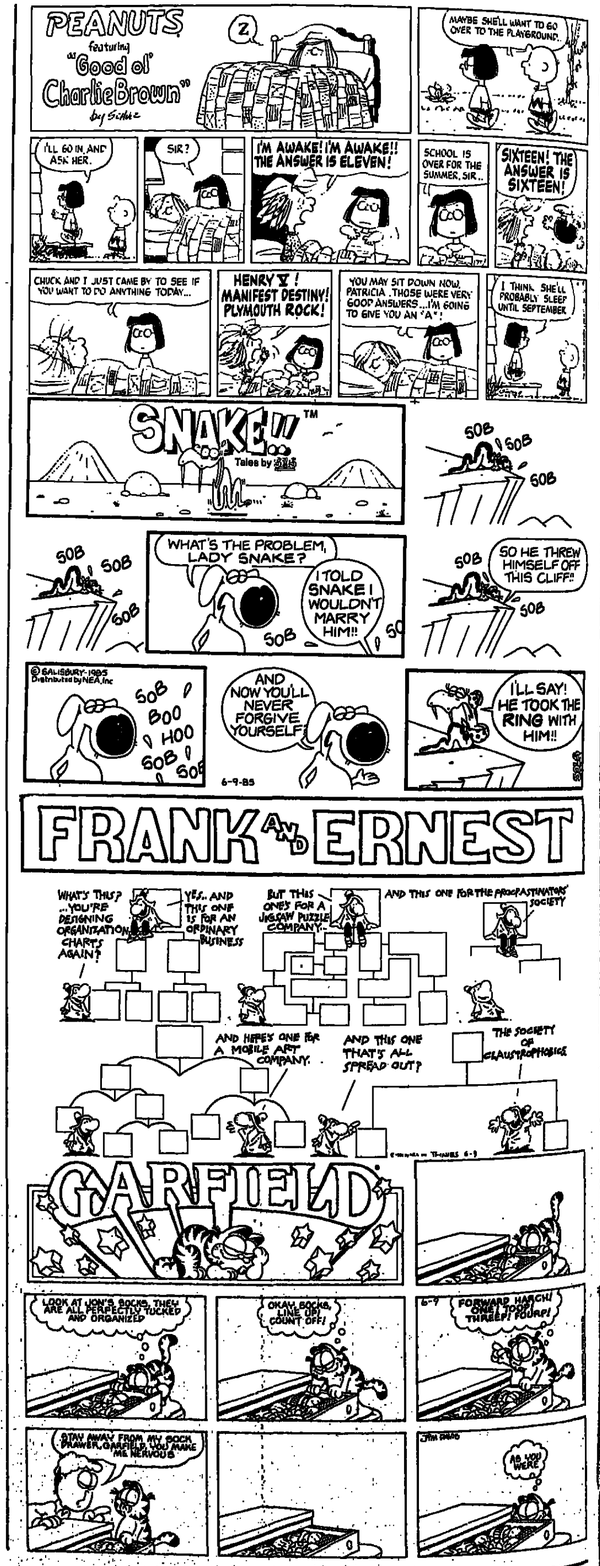
SAGITTARIUS — November 22nd to December 20th

You would be very well advised to take care not to say too much to people around you during this coming week, as someone may be rather too nosey. You must be as tactful as you can, especially in the working field. A little extra money is indicated for you some time during this coming week, which will be very opportune for you regarding some future arrangements. Where your health is concerned, you may need to watch this a little.

The Far Side

By GARY LARSON

When snakes trip.



BRIDGE by Terence Reese

North
♠ 8 5 3
♡ A
♢ K 9 6
♣ J 10 9 8 5 4

West
♠ J 9 7
♡ K 10 8 4 2
♢ 8 5 3
♣ Q 2

East
♠ 10 6 4 2
♡ 9 7 6 3
♢ A J 7
♣ A 7

South
♠ A K Q
♡ Q J 6
♢ Q 10 4 2
♣ K 6 3

Dealer South : Game all.

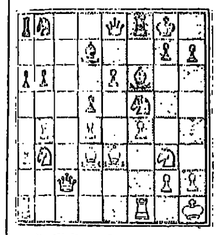
In the Common Market championship a few years ago a British team of which I was captain lost 30—79 to a French team—a reverse not easily sustained. Looking again at some of the hands after an interval, I can see that some of our players were not in great form. Take this deal, where both teams finished in 3NT and West began with a low heart.

You win in dummy and lead the jack of clubs, on which East plays low. What happened at the table is that the French declarer played the king and made the contract easily, while the British declarer ran the jack and finished two down.

Other things being equal, to run the jack with this holding in clubs is better than going up with the ace. This is because it gains against A Q x in the East hand. The situation was different here because South is not going to have time to enter dummy quickly. If East has A Q x he will go up with the ace and clear the hearts.

A further point is that the king of clubs may bring down a singleton queen. The defenders will have to hold off the next round of clubs and declarer will then have chances. To find West with a singleton ace, on the other hand, will never help.

Mind you, a player whose team is not doing well may sometimes play against the odds to create a swing.



S. Walker (England) v H. de Greef (Holland), International schoolgirls' match, Holland 1982. Susan Walker, 17, of Cheam, is London's top girl player and has already won a Surrey county competition ahead of men rivals. Susan (White, to play) led England's team to victory in a recent four-nation event at Eindhoven where this diagram proved decisive.

Black has just offered White the opportunity to win a pawn by either (a) I Kt×Kt or (b) B×Kt. White can also (c) opt for the safety play I B—KB2, which is best, and how should the game go?

TARGET

The Word Game

R	A	T
O	Y	E
L	U	R

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the large letter, and there must be at least one nine-letter word in the list. No plurals; no foreign words; no proper names.

TODAY'S TARGET: 17 words, good; 22 words, very good; 27 words, excellent.

SOLUTION

Chess

Susan won by (a) I Kt×Kt, P×Kt; 2 B×BP, B×B; 3 Q×B, Q×B; 4 Q×QP ch, K–R1; 5 R—B3! (the hidden point) and Black resigned. After the attacked queen moves, 6 Q×R wins easily on material.

Target

Artery arty aryl early layer lyrate lyre quarry QUARTERLY quay query rarely raylet really relay rely retry tarry terry tray trey truly tyle tyler tyre yean yule

CRYPTIC SOLUTION

ACROSS.—9, Acting for. 10, Mali-owed. 12, S-or-t. 13, Letter. 14, Tripper. 16, Ba-dmin-ton. 17, Insl.-ctio. 19, E-ms-nded. 20, Hunx-i-n. 21, Ross. 24, D-oranj-ed. 26, Ha-sease-d. 28, Rita. 29, Passed. 31, Por-ten-t. 34, Du-mmno-ur. 36, F-all to s-ee. 38, Castine. 39, Driers. 40, Pa-l-r. 41, Main-ta-i-n. 42, La-st words.

DOWN.—1, Passable. 2, S-tor-ed. (rev). 3, Affected. 4, C-re-tan. 5, Char-Mine. 6, Flat denial. 7, Top-ica-l. 8, DE-spot (rev). 11, Cracked. 18, In-dia-n. 19, Eve-(ni)nt. 20, Red. 22, Ghee-E. 23, Parrot. 25, Go a long way. 26, Ilad. 27, P-Red-ucer. 30, S-trid-ent. 31, P-im-rose. 32, Theo-rise. 33, Pat-t-ent. 35, M't-sal(rev). 36, Fairly. 37, Sta-l-rs.

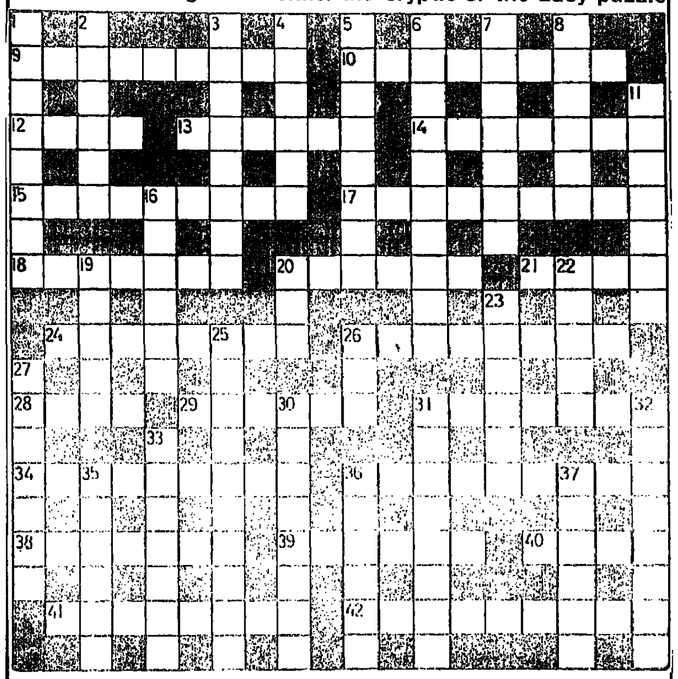
EASY SOLUTION

ACROSS.—9, Usherette. 10, Thousand. 12, Lees. 13, Appeal. 14, Imaginie. 15, Observant. 17, Inspector. 18, Forests. 20, Canary. 21, Spun. 24, Publicun. 26, Sapphire. 28 Avor. 29, Debase. 31, Revites. 34, Traversed. 36, Medallion. 38, Antenna. 39, Carnal. 40, Port. 41, Dormouse. 42, Look Smart.

DOWN.—1, Bully-off. 2, Cheers. 3, Stopgaps. 4, Recent. 5, Stallion. 6, Comic Strip. 7, Escaped. 8, Enlist. 11 Herring. 16, Result. 19, Rouge. 20, Can. 22, Peril. 23, Shovel. 25 Chelsea bun. 26, See 27, Partial. 30, Abducted. 31, Radiator. 32 Sanctity. 33, Pen name 35, Action. 36, Mornie. 37, Dorbac.

THE STAR TWO-WAY TEASER

Use the same diagram for either the Cryptic or the Easy puzzle



CRYPTIC PUZZLE

ACROSS

9 Understudying? (6, 3)
10 Building due to be blessed (8)
12 A kind of gold, in a way (4)
13 A few lines that reveal character (6)
14 He's falling for someone who's here only for a short time (7)
16 Mind, foolishly, when the bacon comes out. It's only a game (9)
17 Is it clean? It's oddly stiff (9)
18 Stopped me entering to get changed (7)
20 When the anger has dissipated, I go in and take it back (6)
21 The bush became taller (4)
24 Mad, called to have something done about it (8)
25 Turned loose to let into the shade (8)
28 She cracked up during training (4)
29 Handed something to us as one went by (8)
31 Sign that a number got left out (7)
34 Terribly rude about the one a.m. ordering of the carriage (9)
36 Don't notice a lot is wrongly included in the charge (4, 2, 3)
38 Allowing to take part, or getting rid of (7)
39 They take the soppy things for a spin! (8)
40 Mean catching the one two (4)
41 Keep the blue and brown one inside (8)
42 After which one says no more about the worst spoilt youths (4, 5)

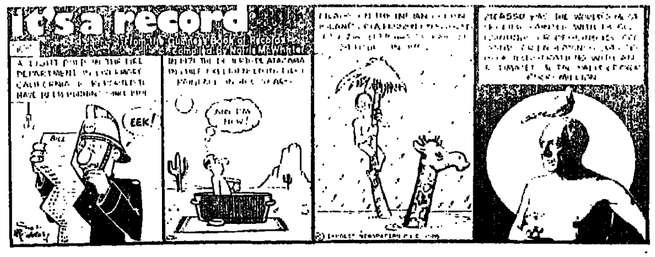
DOWN

1 Open for traffic, all right (8)
2 Kept back the man about to go off (6)
3 Put on, produced a reaction (8)
4 The islander can't get involved again in it (6)
5 A delightful home help: Chinese (8)
6 "No. It's hilly"? (4, 6)
7 The current plot to annihilate the CIA came out in it (7)
8 Beats the man up, the tyrant (8)
11 Nuts ready to eat (7)
16 Getting local assistance in backing the foreigner (8)
19 The incident of the female and the half pint (8)
20 He may be loaded! (8)
22 So be off East with Patty (5)
23 You can't shut it up in a cage! (8)
25 Get to the top, but take a roundabout route (2, 1, 3)
26 Left glowing (3)
27 A coloured man came in with what had been grown (7)
30 Being made to do carrying dirt up is harsh (8)
31 In writing, she has the edge (8)
32 Speculate about Mr Hill (8)
33 It's obvious the one on the inside is no doctor (7)
35 Lady, I'm returning the box (6)
36 Quite prettily (6)
37 They take one up and put one among the top-liners (6)

EASY PUZZLE

ACROSS

9 Cinema employees (9)
10 Large number (8)
12 Sediment (4)
13 Request for aid (6)
14 Form a mental picture (7)
15 Watchful (9)
17 Senior policeman (9)
18 Large woods (7)
20 Yellow bird (6)
21 Duration (4)
24 Innkeeper (8)
26 Precious stone (8)
28 Assert (4)
29 Adulterate (8)
31 Abuses (7)
34 Crossed (9)
36 Jewellery item (9)
38 Aerial (7)
39 Of the flesh (6)
40 Fortified wine (4)
41 Small rodent (8)
42 Hurry up! (4, 5)

DOWN

1 Start of a hockey game (5-3)
2 A toast (6)
3 Temporary substitutes (8)
4 In the near past (6)
5 Male horse (8)
6 Humorous newspaper item (6, 3)
7 Broke free (7)
8 Join the armed forces (8)
11 Marine fish (7)
16 Outcome (8)
19 Cosmetic (8)
20 Tin (3)
22 Dunner (5)
23 Digging implement (8)
25 Small currant cake (7, 3)
26 Diocese (3)
27 Biased (7)
28 Kidnapped (8)
31 Heating device (8)
32 Holiness (8)
33 Nom de plume (3, 4)
35 Dead (6)
36 Spirit of optimism (8)
37 Weather-map line (6)